

### Megan Glynn

Highly Specialist Speech and Language Therapist Health and Care Professions Council number: SL28914 Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists registration number: RC0023888

### Personal Profile

I am motivated and passionate about enabling people with additional needs and their families to achieve their goals. I have extensive experience as a Speech and Language Therapist (in a range of settings), a Personal Assistant and as a trustee for a national charity. I am sociable with excellent interpersonal communication skills and value being a 'team player' both to support others and to continue developing my own learning. I am committed to ensuring all clients receive equal opportunities, both in education and their everyday lives by providing and modelling individually tailored support and encouraging high expectations and aspirations.

### **Professional Qualifications**

2006 - 2010 Newcastle University - BSc Hons Speech and Language Therapy and Pathology 2:1

2014 Sheffield University - Post Graduate Dysphagia Qualification

### **Employment History**

### ATtherapy, Highly Specialist Speech and Language Therapist · March 2018 – present

ATtherapy, independent company providing specialist support. I am based in Carlisle and can work with clients across the North of England and Scotland. I provide specialist assessment and intervention for people with communication difficulties including those who need AAC such as low-tech means (e.g. eye pointing, using signs, communication books), mid tech devices (e.g. a communication tool operated with batteries which gives a voice output) and high-tech communication aids with a range of access methods such as eye gaze, direct access and switch scanning. I also support the use of assistive technology to ensure individuals can access leisure activities, develop their literacy skills, independence and assert control over their environment.

I work with clients within their homes, schools and colleges. I support individuals with a range of complex needs, from sensory learners to proficient communication aid users. Also, people who are fully verbal supporting their speech sound development, language skills and social communication. I also work with a range of clients with eating, drinking and swallowing difficulties (dysphagia) providing thorough assessment, interventions, guidelines and training.

### Direct Payments · October 2017 - 2019

Weekend Personal Assistant for a teenage girl with Williams syndrome. Facilitating her to develop her independence skills through her choice of fun activities in the community.

# Cumbria Partnership Foundation Trust NHS, Specialist Paediatric Community Speech and Language Therapist (band 6) · September 2014 – March 2018

Working with children with a range of communication difficulties, learning disabilities/complex needs and feeding difficulties.

# Quarriers Family Support Service, Weekend support worker/Personal Assistant · April 2015- December 2016

For a boy with Autism and ADHD and a teenage girl with Williams syndrome. Facilitating them in their choice of social activities such as youth groups, sports and shopping.

# NHS Dumfries and Galloway, Paediatric Community Speech and Language Therapist (band 5/6) · July 2012-August 2014

Working with children with a range of communication difficulties, learning disabilities/complex needs and feeding difficulties and secondment of AAC Co-ordinator for Dumfries and Galloway.

#### National Star College - Cheltenham, Speech and Language Therapist · April 2011 - June 2012

(Specialist in Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities) for people aged 16-25 years with complex physical disabilities, acquired brain injuries and associated learning, medical, emotional and behavioural difficulties. I developed the communication environment in a new PMLD department along with providing 1:1 and group therapy sessions.

## NHS Dumfries and Galloway (Fixed Term Maternity Cover), Paediatric Speech and Language Therapist · September 2010 – March 2011

Supporting children with a range of speech and language difficulties, in schools, nurseries, clinics and at home.

### Personal Assistant ·2007 - 2010

For a girl with severe Cerebral Palsy who used a wheelchair and high-tech communication aid. Supported her to access youth groups, trips out and all aspects of her personal care.

#### Training

- Cerebral Palsy Scotland annual conference
- Neurological Music Therapy workshop
- Updating the switch progression road map webinar
- Bricks for Autism accredited training
- Dysphagia clinical excellence networks
- AAC clinical excellence networks
- Child Brain Injury Trust Master Class Day
- Child Brain Injury Trust understanding and managing memory webinar
- Grid 3 expert day Smartbox
- Getting started with Snap and Core First Tobii Dynavox
- Safeguarding children and adults
- Hearing Impairment
- Talk Tools
- Intensive Interaction
- Makaton for Professionals
- AAC meetings with differing specialist departments
- conferences such as Communication Matters and information days and roadshows
- ATtherapy also meet regularly with different companies to learn about their new hardware and software developments.

#### **Training Delivered**

I regularly deliver formal and informal presentations and training to education staff, SLT's, other professionals, care workers and parents. Including training for utilising low tech (paper based) communication methods for core language development, choice making and visual schedules. Training about various high tech communication aid devices and software/vocabulary packages including a range of access methods such as eye gaze and direct access. Sharing the importance of aided language stimulation, imbedding use in functional activities and presuming potential to progress. Also, additional access features for leisure, environmental control and literacy activities.

Training can focus on specific therapy methods e.g. Objects of Reference, Signing, Intensive Interaction or on a client's overall communication skills and adapting the curriculum to suit their communication level and needs.

Also training around eating, drinking and swallowing including the risks involved, strategies to minimize these risks and developing oral motor skills.

#### **Additional Skills**

My various roles and training have deepened my knowledge and experience of a wide range of language and communication disorders and appropriate assessments, target setting, and therapeutic practices based on evidence-based practice. The types of therapy I have implemented the following: low and high tech AAC such as core vocabulary, visual timetables; communication books and passports; objects of reference; Intensive Interaction; signing (Makaton and Sign Along), sensory stories; using switches and simple message devices; and high tech AAC devices with varying access methods. I have also implemented therapy focussing on articulation and phonological development; language development; social communication skills and life skills.

I was involved with supporting the national AAC charity '1Voice - Communicating Together', for over 10 years as a volunteer and trustee. These roles and experiences allowed me to meet truly inspirational people who use high tech AAC and gain an essential insight into the views of clients, carers and families that I incorporate into my Speech and Language Therapy practice.

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