

Niki Dutton

Health and Care Professions Council number: SL30488

Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists registration number: RC0032881



Personal Profile

I am an enthusiastic and highly motivated speech and language therapist whose special areas of interest include Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC), complex communication and the use of adapted LEGO®-based Therapy to develop communicative competence in paediatric AAC users. I pride myself on offering relatable support to children and young people with communication challenges and their families, and always go the extra mile to ensure that they feel confident and able to tackle their goals head on. I am currently a third year, part time PhD student at Manchester Metropolitan University and strive to constantly further my knowledge to make the support that I provide to my clients the best that it can be.

Professional Qualifications

2018-Present: (Manchester Metropolitan University) PhD – ‘Understanding the Application and Value of Adapted LEGO®-based Therapy in Developing Communicative Competence in Paediatric AAC Users with a Developmental Disability/Acquired Brain Injury’

2017-2018: (Manchester Metropolitan University) Postgraduate Certificate with Merit in Augmentative and Alternative Communication

2008-2012: (Manchester Metropolitan University)
Bachelor of Science in Speech Pathology and Therapy

Training and publications

‘Considerations for Adapting LEGO®-based therapy to Develop Communicative Competency’
Publication: Communication Matters Journal, April 2020

‘The Use of Adapted LEGO®-based Therapy to Develop Communicative Competency in Children who Attend a Specialist Educational Provision and Use Augmentative and Alternative Communication Systems (AAC)’

ATtherapy
Chambers Business Centre
Chapel Road, Oldham
OL8 4QQ. 0161 494 6489
niki@attherapy.co.uk



Platform presentation: Communication Matters Conference 2018

'The Novel Use of LEGO®-based Therapy to Develop Communicative Competency in Children Who Use Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Systems'

Platform Presentation: Association of Simulated Practice in Healthcare Conference 2018

Training completed:

- Bricks for Autism – Facilitator and Trainer levels (current commercial license holder)
- Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS)
- Talk Tools
- Attendance at a range of postgraduate workshops on research methods and evidence based practice
- Parent Child Interaction (PCI) – Michael Palin Centre for Stammering
- Grid 3 Expert / Communicator 5 / Proloquo2go 4
- Social Communication, Emotional Regulation and Transactional Support (SCERTS)
- Intensive Interaction
- Makaton
- Elklan Tutor status achieved
- Team-Teach
- Sensory Processing
- Clinical Practice Educator for SALT student placements
- ACE Centre training days on developing high tech communication skills and iPad accessibility
- Safeguarding (including Prevent)
- Mental Wellbeing in Children and Young People
- Attendance at a range of short training sessions and seminars including: Communicator 5, CELF-5, LAMP, Revolutionising Assessment and Access with Eye Gaze, Access and Engagement for Special Education

I am a member of the North West AAC clinical excellence network and have strong links with a number of specialist educational provisions across the North West of England; most notably in Merseyside. I have attended and presented at conferences and SEN meetings including the Communication Matters conference 2018, the British and Irish Orthoptic Society and the Association for Simulated Practice in Healthcare Conference 2018. I provide yearly training for a large network of North West SEN schools as part of their annual training event.

ATtherapy
Chambers Business Centre
Chapel Road, Oldham
OL8 4QQ. 0161 494 6489
niki@attherapy.co.uk



Work Experience

July 2019 – Present: ATtherapy, Highly Specialist Speech and Language Therapist

I have a varied caseload including children and young people with complex needs, Learning Disability, Autism (ASC) and Acquired Brain Injury (ABI); most of whom use AAC. I work with children and young people across the North West of England and Wales who are developing early communication skills through to clients developing their higher-level language skills and emotional and behavioural regulation. I am a member of the team's Training Working Party and deliver Bricks for Autism training across the UK. My aim is to make ATtherapy widely known for the fantastic training that our team offers on a range of speech, language and communication topics.

May 2016 – August 2017, January 2019 – Present: Pearson Assessment, Psychological Tester (Child and Adult Workforce)

I previously recruited participants and collected then collated data for the standardisation of the Clinical Evaluation of Language Fundamentals (CELF) 5 assessment; an updated version of a frequently used speech and language assessment. As a result of my participation in the CELF-5 project I have been asked to take part in Pearson's latest standardisation project for the Raven's 2 assessment.

September 2012 – July 2019: Lansbury Bridge School and Sports College, Specialist Speech and Language Therapist

My role as the school funded speech and language therapist involved working with children and young people aged 3-16 years with Education, Health and Care Plans. Clients I supported during my time in the role had a range of developmental disabilities including Autism, Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy and PMLD, as well as acquired brain injuries. I led AAC assessment teams in considering potentially successful high-tech devices for pupils to develop their functional communication skills as well as supporting the introduction and development of uses of no and low tech forms of communication. A large part of my role was the creation and delivery of training courses for parents, school staff and agencies such as respite centres, social care teams and student teachers/volunteers. This included the delivery of accredited Elklan training courses as well as providing informal training sessions on topics including total communication, LEGO®-based Therapy, aided language stimulation, Colourful Semantics and effective communication partners.

August 2008 - September 2012: Warrington Disability Partnership, Personal Assistant

Whilst studying for my A Levels and Undergraduate degree I took on the role of Personal Assistant to two young people with Autism who used AAC to support their communication. My role involved supporting them within their homes and within the wider community, including access and engagement in social groups such as local disability playschemes. Supporting young AAC users in this way enabled to gain an understanding of the challenges many AAC users face in communicating with a range of communication partners in different environments and in communicating functionally in environments such as the swimming baths where access to preferred methods of communication may be logistically challenging.

ATtherapy
Chambers Business Centre
Chapel Road, Oldham
OL8 4QQ. 0161 494 6489
niki@attherapy.co.uk

