

# Caroline Ayres

Health and Care Professions Council number: SL00960

Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists registration number: RC0009981



## Personal Profile

Since graduating in 1990, I have worked within the NHS and more recently in the private sector. Over the course of my 30 year career this has been across a range of settings including nurseries, primary and secondary schools, both mainstream and specialist support, clinics and clients' homes. The latter half of my career has been specialised in adults with acquired disorders and in AAC.

I have specialist knowledge in the fields of complex communication difficulties, alternative and augmentative communication and feeding and swallowing difficulties (although I am not currently practicing in Dysphagia)

It is my strongly held belief that all people with speech, language and communication needs should receive the care and therapy they are entitled to, in a friendly knowledgeable and professional manner.

I pride myself on my excellent communication skills and my advanced clinical reasoning skills.

## Professional Qualifications

1987-1990- BSc Hons: Speech Pathology and Language Therapeutics

1992 - Manchester Post Basic Dysphagia - Post Basic Dysphagia Qualification

## Training

- Grid 3 – Smartbox Assistive Technology
- PECS - Picture Exchange Communication System (Pyramid Education)
- PODD - Pragmatic Organization Dynamic Display
- Dynavox devices and software (Tobii Dynavox)
- Proloquo2Go (Assistive ware)
- Developing low-tech AAC (BCAS)
- Eye gaze technology (Inclusive Technology)
- An introduction to switch skills (Ability world)

ATtherapy Head Office, Chambers Business Centre,  
Chapel Rd, Oldham  
OL8 4QQ  
0161 494 6489  
info@ATtherapy.co.uk



- Environmental strategies for visual and hearing impairment (Sensory Support Team)
- Sensory processing disorder (Occupational Therapy)
- Hanen: Learning language and loving it.

## Work experience

**June 2020 to present : ATtherapy: Associate** Highly Specialist Speech and Language Therapist predominantly working with clients in the medical legal sector.

**Jan 1999 to present :** Highly Specialist Speech and Language Therapist  
Clinical lead for AAC (adults)

Working predominantly within a range of hospital settings and care homes, I provide detailed assessment, treatment plans and therapy to adults with complex medical, physical and communication difficulties. This includes receptive and expressive language, paper based and electronic alternative and augmentative communication systems (AAC) and social communication skills.

I am also experienced in working with people with specific or undiagnosed learning difficulties and also those with communication difficulties associated with acquired brain injury.

I also saw a range of clients with eating, drinking and swallowing difficulties within their home, residential settings or as inpatients.

**March 2016 to Oct 2019 :** Highly Specialist Speech and Language Therapist  
Dame Hannah Rogers AAC Specialist Service

Lead for adults in a multi disciplinary team whose role it was to assess procure, set up and monitor and finally to help implement high tech AAC for a wide range of adults, children and for those with additional needs. DHRT was sub contracted by the regional AAC specialist centre at Bristol.

## Additional skills

My continuing professional development and post-graduate training has enabled me to gain an extensive amount of clinical experience working with both adults and children with complex communication and feeding difficulties including those with:

- Dysphasia , dysarthria and dysphonia
- Acquired brain injuries in both adults and children.
- Disordered phonology and motor speech disorders
- Global developmental delay

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- Specific disorders. E.g. Down Syndrome, Fragile X, Rett Syndrome, etc...
- Developmental Language Disorder (previously known as Specific Language Impairment)
- Physical difficulties. E.g. Spinal Muscular Atrophy, Muscular Dystrophy, Cerebral Palsy etc...
- Multi-sensory and physical impairment
- Feeding and swallowing difficulties
- I have led, and developed many training courses on low and high tech AAC



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