

## Laura Keeling

Health and Care Professions Council number: SL31072

Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists  
registration number: RC0026132



### Personal Profile

I am a highly motivated and professional Speech and Language Therapist with a specialist interest in the communication development of those with profound complex needs or an acquired brain injury, Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) forms, and dysphagia support.

I have experience in working with both children and adults with Learning Disabilities, Traumatic Brain Injury, Autism Spectrum Conditions, Social Emotional and Mental Health difficulties, and supporting individuals whose behaviour may be deemed as a barrier to the development of their communication.

I am passionate about working alongside and empowering families and other professionals to provide the best communication outcome for clients. I am continuously developing my skills and work in line with evidence based practice and known therapy outcomes.

### Professional Qualifications

June 2012 – Manchester Metropolitan University - Bsc (Hons) Psychology and Speech Pathology

June 2014 – Manchester Post Basic Dysphagia Training Course

January 2016 – Enhanced Paediatric Videofluoroscopy Training and Competencies

June 2009 – Richard Huish College - A Levels in Biology, Psychology, and English Language

### Training Received:

- Pragmatic Organisational Dynamic Display (PODD)
- Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS, Pyramid Education)
- Down Syndrome and Total Communication
- Makaton Training, enhanced qualifications
- Grid 3 – Smartbox Assistive Technology
- Colourful Semantics
- Cued Articulation
- ProLoQuo2Go Training (AssistiveWare)
- Positive Behavioural Support and Management
- Talking Mats
- International Dysphagia Diet Standardisation Initiative (IDDSI) Framework and Implementation

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- Clinical Practice Educator Training
- Language Acquisition through Motor Planning (LAMP)
- Intensive Interaction Training, Phoebe Caldwell
- Inclusive Technology and ACE Centre training days on supporting the development of low, light, and high tech communication skills.
- First Aid at Work and Paediatric First Aid and Resuscitation
- Early Communication Matters
- On-body Signing Training
- Exploring Vocabulary for the ALD and Adult Acquired Population (Liberator)

## Work Experience

### December 2018 – AT Therapy

Highly Specialist Speech and Language Therapist

Independent company providing specialist support for individuals with brain injury. My role is to provide detailed assessment and treatment plans for a range of complex adult and paediatric clients, followed by appropriate intensive input as clinically required, led by evidence-based practice. I support a range of complex communication needs, as well as dysphagia and oro-motor difficulties, within homes, schools, and residential/nursing care settings.

I am able to support both verbal and non-verbal clients with maintaining and developing skills for successful communication outcomes. I am experienced in supporting children and adults in the assessment and implementation of appropriate Alternative and Augmentative Communication Systems (AAC); both paper-based and electronic.

### January 2013 – November 2018 - Wirral Community NHS Foundation Trust

Senior Speech and Language Therapist

Community NHS Trust, working within a large team as the departmental AAC Specialist and Videofluoroscopy lead therapist. I worked as part of the community developmental team working with preschool aged children with complex needs, in special schools (moderate to severe and profound learning disabilities, autism, cerebral palsy, down syndrome, PIMD and other co-morbid conditions), in SEMH schools, and with young people 19-25 transitioning out of education. I also held a small caseload of children in mainstream education who are high-tech AAC users.

I worked with children and young people from birth to 25, assessing and reviewing my own communication and dysphagia caseload. I also have experience working with adults with learning disabilities (2014-2018).

I completed team clinical audits and recently led on a Quality Improvement Project focusing on the quality of communication reports. I regularly trained other Speech and Language Therapists, Allied Health Professionals, and Education Staff on a range of topics as part of individualised care plans.

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June 2010 – December 2013 - Time Specialist Support Ltd  
Specialist Support Worker and Family Liaison Officer

Specialist Support Company, supporting children with a range of special needs, mainly working with children with Autism Spectrum Disorder aged 3 – 18 years both at home, and in the community. I helped individuals gain access to mainstream/public services to promote independence in a safe manner. Helped develop and ran a summer project called 'The Communication Project' to empower parents of children with autism to communicate and play successfully with their children, whatever their ability. This was undertaken on a voluntary basis, using final year SLT students, and newly-qualified therapists not yet in employment.

Latterly, following completion of my degree, I worked full time in the office, supporting with the logistical element of the business; booking support workers, training new staff, dealing with concerns from parents.

### Additional skills

**Innovative Observation and Assessment** – I am skilled at observing and using informal and formal assessment to formulate an individualised, holistic care plan. I have experience of combining evidence based practice and theoretical knowledge to create effective input for those with complex communication difficulties. I am motivated to provide the best possible communication outcomes for all individuals I work with, and complete comprehensive, professional reports to support further input and multi-disciplinary working.

**Active Learning and Evaluation** – I continuously reflect upon my own practice, and strive to provide consistently high quality provision for my clients. I regularly attend training and take part in clinical supervision and professional development opportunities.

**Communication and Interpersonal Skills** – I have naturally effective communication skills and am able to deliver sensitive information to any audience while ensuring the information is accessible. I have the ability to interact with others in a professional friendly manner and consistently communicate in a compassionate and empathetic way. These skills enable me to provide high quality training and support to other professionals and family members to guaranteeing they are empowered to help the client, ensuring best possible outcomes.

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