

Amy Varetto



Personal Profile

Since graduating in 2011, I have worked within in the Local Authority, the NHS and now in the private sector. This has been across a range of settings including nurseries, primary and secondary schools, both mainstream and specialist support, clinics and clients' homes. I have specialist knowledge in the fields of complex communication difficulties, alterative and augmentative communication and feeding and swallowing difficulties.

I feel passionately that children with speech, language and communication needs receive the care and therapy they deserve in a fun, engaging and functional way. Within our team, I support our therapists and assistants with my specialism in motor speech disorders and feeding difficulties. I am a highly organised individual and I pride myself in delivering quality target driven therapy.

Professional Qualifications

2007-2011 - De Montfort University - BSc Hons: Human Communication Speech and Language Therapy

2016 - Manchester Post Basic Dysphagia - Post Basic Dysphagia Qualification

2018 – The Manchester College - ABC Level 2 in Counselling Concepts

2020 – The Manchester College - ABC Level 3 in Counselling Skills

Training

- Talk Tools - Oral Placement for Feeding and Speech Clarity Level 1 & 2 (EG Training)
- Sign-Along Foundation (CYPS Trafford)
- Intensive Interaction – The Intensive Interaction Institute
- Grid 3 Expert – Smartbox Assistive Technology
- PECS - Picture Exchange Communication System (Pyramid Education)
- LAMP - Language Acquisition through Motor Planning (AT Therapy)
- PODD - Pragmatic Organization Dynamic Display (ACE Centre)
- Dynavox devices and software (Tobii Dynavox)

ATtherapy
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Romiley
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Registration number: R C 0032507



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- Proloquo2Go (Assistive ware)
- Developing low-tech AAC (ACE Centre)
- Readiness for voice output (ACE Centre)
- Teaching social skills (Alex Kelly)
- Eye gaze technology (Inclusive Technology)
- An introduction to switch skills (Ability world)
- Environmental strategies for visual and hearing impairment (Sensory Support Team)
- Sensory processing disorder (Occupational Therapy)
- Attachment disorder (Clinical Psychology)
- Sign Supported English (Hearing Impairment Team)
- Canaan Barrie on body signs (Visual Impairment Team)

Work experience

ATtherapy - Sept 2017 – Present

Highly Specialist Speech and Language Therapist

Working predominantly with a paediatric caseload, I provide detailed assessment, treatment plans and therapy to children and young 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 experienced in working with people with specific or undiagnosed learning difficulties and also those with communication difficulties associated with acquired brain injury.

I also see a range of clients with eating, drinking and swallowing difficulties within their home, schools and residential settings. I utilise my Post Graduate Dysphagia qualification and training in Talk Tools therapy to support our team and our clients with a range of interventions for speech, feeding and oral placement difficulties.

Central Manchester NHS Foundation Trust - Jan 2015 –Sept 2017

Specialist Speech and Language Therapist

Working within two specialist support schools. Providing assessment and treatment to children aged 3-16 with complex physical, medical & learning difficulties and Autistic Spectrum Conditions. I was part of the mainstream and specialist school dysphagia team.

I was also the lead Speech and Language Therapist for Central Manchester in Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) and lead the Total Communication Program (for parents of children 0 - 5 with SLD, PMLD & physical difficulties)

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Brentwood Special School, Trafford Local Authority - Sept 2011-Jan 2015

Speech and Language Therapist

Specialist school and sixth form for pupils aged 11 – 25 with SLD, PMLD and ASC.
Assessment and treatment of complex communication difficulties and oral stage feeding difficulties.

Brentwood Special School, Trafford Local Authority - April 2011-Sept 2011

Assistant Speech and Language Therapist

Specialist school and sixth form for pupils aged 11 – 25 with SLD, PMLD and ASC. Treatment of complex communication difficulties.

Additional skills

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

- Disordered phonology and motor speech disorders
- Global developmental delay
- Social communication difficulties and Autistic Spectrum Conditions
- Specific disorders. E.g. Down Syndrome, Fragile X, Rett Syndrome, Rubenstein Taby etc...
- Developmental Language Disorder (previously known as Specific Language Impairment)
- Physical difficulties. E.g. Spinal Muscular Atrophy, Muscular Dystrophy, Cerebral Palsy etc...
- Hearing and visual impairment
- Multi-sensory and physical impairment
- Feeding and swallowing difficulties
- Sensory feeding difficulties
- Progression from enteral to oral feeding

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