



## Laith Ritchie



### Personal Profile

I am a highly motivated AT Mentor who is driven to improve the lives of people with complex Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) needs. I have experience with working with young people and adults with Cerebral Palsy and Brain injuries. I have extensive knowledge around different AAC systems both high-tech and low-tech. Also, I have extensive knowledge around the different Assistive Technology (AT) access methods, e.g. Eye-Gaze, switch scanning etc.

I mainly work with individuals with, Dysarthria or clients with complex physical needs. I particularly take an interest in working with individuals with eye gaze for their main access method. I also take an interest in literacy development with AAC users. Previously, I have delivered a number of training packages. Additionally, I am very interested in developing resources for the AT Mentor team to use to develop and maintain our award-winning standards. I am on our resource and research team.

I have presented at leading AAC conferences such as, Communication Matters. I am also co-chair of the Communication Matters AAC User Focus Group, in this, we empower AAC users to play an active role in the running of Communication Matters (ISAAC UK).

### Key Qualification

Pearsons

August 2021 Entry Level 3 Functional Skills Maths

August 2021 Level 1 Functional Skills English

NCFE

October 2019 Level 1 Mentoring

Pearson BTEC

September 2020- June 2021 BTEC First Cert in Information and Creative Technology – double Merit.

Education

Burnley College 2020

Additional training

- Introduction to Counselling,
- Advanced Grid 3 training,
- Mental health training,

ATtherapy Head Office

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Chapel Road

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## Achievements

October 2019 Communication Matters AAC Rising Star Award

## Employment

AT Therapy Ltd – A.T Mentor October 2018-Ongoing

In my role as an A.T Mentor, I work with individuals who have mild and complex Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) needs of all ages. I work with the Speech and Language Therapist to ensure that I am providing the correct embedded therapeutic and mentor input.

I have worked with a number of different types of high-tech AAC access methods, for example, direct access, Eye-gaze, etc.

I have worked within several settings supporting clients to achieve their long-term goals set by the Speech and Language Therapist and myself, these settings include, clients homes, schools, care homes, and day centres.

In the settings mentioned above, I have also provided high-quality bespoke training packages to the individuals, school support teams, support workers and parents to ensure that the client is getting the right support to achieve the best outcomes for them.

I also work hard to help my team grow and take a role in staff wellbeing. I research and get resources to support my team's work to provide the highest quality service that we are committed to providing.

Also, I present at leading events e.g., Communication Matters annual conference.

## Volunteering roles

Communication Matters AAC User Focus Group – April 2020- ongoing

In my role as Co-Chair for the Communication Matters AAC User Focus Group, I liaise with my colleagues to ensure we are fulfilling the expectations for AAC users across the UK. We are an, AAC User led group and we work with Communication Matters to address, particular matters.

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