

Jane Handley

Health and Care Professions Council number: SL27799

Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists
registration number: RC0022742



Personal Profile

I am a highly dedicated Speech and Language Therapist with substantial experience working across a range of clinical areas including mainstream SEN, individuals with complex needs and dysphagia. In recent years I have developed specialist knowledge and skills in working with children and young people with complex social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs and language and communication needs as part of a profile of neurodiversity. This includes working with neurodevelopmental diagnoses such as Autism, ADHD/ADD and Dyslexia, as well as the effects of developmental trauma. My main areas of interest include:

- Higher level language needs
- ADHD and ADD
- Autism in girls
- PDA
- Dyslexia
- Hypermobility and associated speech, language and communication needs, and associated feeding and swallowing difficulties
- Social and emotional understanding
- Social executive functioning
- Social thinking and dynamic social problem solving
- Sensory processing and emotional regulation

I strongly believe in a strengths-based, solution-focussed approach which enables me to deliver highly bespoke packages of care tailored to each person's unique profile of strengths and needs. This involves specialist holistic assessment, collaborative goal setting, coaching and/or training, and highly bespoke direct intervention as appropriate.

Professional Qualifications

JULY 2012 – JULY 2013

Post Graduate Dysphagia Qualification – Sheffield University

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SEPT 2005 - JAN 2009

BSc Hons Speech and Language Pathology and Therapy – Manchester Metropolitan University (1st class honours and prize for best overall performance)

SEPT 1997 - JUL 2001

BA Hons Modern Languages (French and Spanish) with IT – Salford University (2:1)

Training Received:

- Elklan Tutor accreditation
- Zones of Regulation
- Fundamentals of working with children and young people who have Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs (SEMH)
- Women and Girls (National Autistic Society)
- Understanding Dyslexia
- EHCPs and SEND law
- Clinical excellence report writing
- Pre-Teaching Vocabulary
- Sensory Integration and SALT
- Understanding and supporting the needs of looked after children
- Feeding problems in premature babies and high-risk neonates
- Enhancing neonatal care

Work experience

ATtherapy – APRIL 2022 – PRESENT

I have been employed as a Specialist Speech and Language Therapist specialising in social, emotional and mental health needs. I also support clients with a diverse range of communication impairments and individuals with dysphagia. I support individuals in the medical legal sector and support people who have had brain injuries.

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Calderdale & Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust, Huddersfield - AUG 2010 to APRIL 2022

Specialist Speech & Language Therapist

Speech, Language and Communication:

- I provided specialist support for the Kirklees 11-16 Specialist Provision for complex communication and interaction needs. My role involved:
 - Collaborating closely with education staff and other agencies including Educational Psychology and Sensory Integration Practitioners to develop a holistic understanding of each pupil's unique profile of strengths and needs.
 - Developing and delivering bespoke assessment and intervention for pupils with complex SEMH needs unable to access mainstream provision.
 - Supporting transition planning for older children and young people.
 - Providing training and coaching to parents and education staff.
- I managed an SEN caseload across a number of mainstream and specialist educational settings, including settings catering for children with a range of complex needs including autism and profound and multiple learning needs.
- I provided highly specialist assessment and recommendations/advice as part of the EHCP process for pupils currently going through tribunal or who are being considered for out of area placement or a bespoke package of care from the local authority.
- My specialist role also involved providing supervision and second opinions within the team in the areas of SEMH, neurodevelopmental disorders (in particular ADHD, PDA, Autism in girls) and complex language and communication profiles in older children and young people.

Dysphagia:

- I provided holistic assessment and management of a wide range of paediatric feeding and swallowing difficulties in both acute and community settings.
- I independently managed a complex community caseload of babies, children and young people up to the age of 18 in addition to providing an on-call service for the Special Care Baby Unit and Children's Wards.
- I undertook regular MDT working with a range of professionals and external agencies from healthcare, social care and education.

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health board, Holyhead - MAY 2009 – AUG 2010

Speech & Language Therapist

I worked across a range of clinical areas including:

- Mainstream SEN - Working with a Specialist Advisory Teacher to provide holistic assessment and programmes of intervention.
- Complex early years - Working in both community and clinic settings to provide assessment and intervention for babies and young children with complex needs.

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Additional Skills

I am a strong communicator with an open-minded and flexible approach which enables me to adapt to change easily and work flexibly to meet the needs of a challenging caseload. I have considerable experience working with older children and young people with complex presentations and I take a creative and flexible approach which enables me to work with people who may find it challenging to engage with traditional assessment or therapy approaches.

I am passionate about advocating for a strengths-based, neurodiversity affirming approach for children and adults with neurodivergent challenges. I am constantly striving to improve my knowledge and understanding of neurodiversity and associated strengths and challenges, and the higher-level language and communication profile that is often associated with neurodiversity.

I am currently writing a higher-level language resource aimed at older children and young people which will be published by Black Sheep Press Ltd.



THERAPY

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