

Do you have an interest in?

Speech and language therapist

- ***Communication – how/why we communicate, who with, using what methods and how to help people who find communicating difficult***
- ***Working with vulnerable people such as very young, old, disabled, ill, people with learning difficulties and making a real difference to their lives***
- ***Working in a team with others; clients, parents, carers, teachers, hospital staff, other therapists***
- ***Being respected as a healthcare professional and thinking creatively to plan and deliver programmes for people to follow***
- ***A career which is varied and has many different elements and in which you can progress***
- ***Being responsible for your own workload, attending meetings, planning therapy sessions, writing reports***

Your tasks will vary depending on your client and the nature of the problem. However, you'll typically need to:

- identify the speech and communication difficulty or disorder;
- assess the cause and nature of the problem, for example, congenital problems (such as cleft palate) or acquired disorders after a stroke or injury;
- You will also advise on problems with eating, drinking, chewing and swallowing
- devise and deliver a suitable treatment programme, working on a one-to-one basis or in groups, to enable each of your clients to improve as much as possible;
- advise carers on implementing a treatment programme and train other professionals in therapy delivery
- monitor and evaluate your clients' progress
- write confidential client case notes and reports
- manage a caseload while taking into account priority cases, waiting lists, successful outcomes, referral and discharge of service users

You will need to have:

- Excellent communication and listening skills - to relate to people of all ages and backgrounds and to motivate clients and gain trust. Clients may be uncooperative because they're frightened, frustrated or disorientated by their situation;
- patience - progress may be slow, involving repetitive exercises to aid clients who have problems memorising, processing and retaining information;
- creativity and problem-solving skills - to design programmes appropriate to different learning styles and communication issues;
- the ability to work in a team - for interacting with other professionals;
- organisational skills and flexibility - to deal with a range of clients in varied settings;
- the ability to be at ease in a clinical environment;
- qualities such as empathy, assertiveness, tact, a sense of humour and physical and mental stamina.

- Driving licence

Salary

- Starting £21,00 ,
- Middle £34,000,
- Senior £40,000

Strong GCSE results

Strong A Levels – preferable in related areas

Good choices are: Sciences/English/MFL/Music/Humanities/Psychology/Sociology

Undergraduate Degree in Speech and Language Therapy (3-4 years)

Or

Degree in relevant subject like Science, Medicine or Psychology plus a conversion course

You must qualify and be registered with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)

Work experience

It is essential to gain work experience so that

- a) You know the job is right for you and you have the correct skills
 - b) You can stand out in a very competitive market
- **Visit/ observe a speech therapist**
 - **Work in retail developing your own communication skills**
 - **Work or volunteering with young children, people with learning difficulties, old people such as helping at a nursery or retirement home**
 - **Observe or help people who teach English to foreign people, other languages, a musical instrument**
 - **Support at a sports/drama/music/art group where you have to communicate with others**
 - **Mentor younger students/ help at homework club- developing your skills of communication, patience, problem-solving**

Other info

- In your first year you will have a mentor who you will work with and be able to learn from
- Lots of access to courses and new ideas and theories
- Specialise in areas which interest you
- Can be promoted to different levels and different responsibilities
- Work around the country and potentially other countries
- Work in schools, hospitals, rehab centres, nursing homes etc...
- Jobs are available throughout the UK, although there are more opportunities in cities.
- You can work in a range of settings, for example hospitals, health centres, day-care centres, rehabilitation units, schools or pre-schools, a client's home, prisons or young offenders' institutions. It's possible to work in several different locations during the week.
- Depending on where you work, you may need to travel between client visits.
- With experience, you can take on freelance work or become self-employed.
- Competition is fierce and you need to be well qualified, passionate and hard-working

- Typically you would work for the NHS, based at or visiting hospitals, schools, individual homes etc for 37.5 hours a week
- It is possible to be an independent/ private speech therapist