



**Zoe Hayes**

## Speech and Language Therapist Stoke on Trent

### What does your job involve?

I am employed by the NHS as part of a team commissioned by the Local Authority to work for 'Stoke Speaks Out' in a public health role. This entails supporting the Early Years workforce to screen, identify and support children with their speech and language development.

### When did you start your job, and how did you find it?

I have been in the role for almost 2 years. It was advertised on the NHS jobs site. I spotted it after constantly checking the site every day!

### How did you prepare for interviews?

I looked up the Trust that I was applying for, so that I knew what their goals and values were. I also revised lots of information regarding child development norms as I knew this was the group I would be working with.

### What does your typical day look like?

My day varies from day to day sometimes I can be in a school or a private nursery, or I could be training staff on language interventions. I can be observing children to offer advice or I could be assisting in completing a referral to our clinical service. I love the fact it is flexible and variable- never a dull day!

### Do you have supervision support as an NQP and are you currently working through your competency framework?

I feel have been extremely lucky and well supported by my team. I had regular supervisions with my line manager and support to gain my competencies. As the role is not a traditional role the Department ensured I was given experiences to meet all the competencies.

### My advice to students:

- Always ask questions- people will not think any less of you if you do
- Listen carefully to advice that you are given.
- You won't be treated differently if you are a 'mature' graduate
- Don't settle for any job your dream job is out there

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