

Speech and Language Therapist - NHS



Craig Ransome

What does your current role involve?

My role is a split Band 6 role of working in Mainstream Schools, and the other half is a secondment where I am working in Special School for children with moderate learning difficulties. I work mostly with children with a Statement/EHC Plan, and some of high priority the children within the 'mini-team' I work in.

What was your first role after graduating?

I started working in a split role in Community Clinics and Mainstream Schools. The role involved working with a wide range of children with speech, language and communication needs. I also spent time helping to run groups for developing early language skills, early sounds awareness, and speech sounds.

At what stage did you decide which area of the profession you wanted to work in?

I am still deciding which area of the profession I would like to work in. I am enjoying gaining a wide range of experience in my current role. I would be open to taking on other secondment roles in order to broaden my skill set before I make a definite decision about a specific area.

How did you progress from your first role to your current job?

I was already working in my current service (Suffolk Community Healthcare). The Band 6 opportunity came up as a result of changes to the team, and it felt like a natural progression to apply. It combined an aspect of my Band 5 role (working in Mainstream Schools) and the opportunity to work in a new setting and with a different client group. I have always been interested in working in a Special School as I gained experience as a teaching assistant in a school prior to training.

How have you used CPD to help you progress in your career?

I have been lucky to attend a number of training courses, including: Palin PCI for Under 7s, Nuffield Dyspraxia Programme and PECS. All of which are helping me in an everyday sense to be able to support more children, and to continue develop my therapeutic skills.

My advice to students looking to get into my current area of work:

If you know which area you'd like to work in, make this known when you're in post - but be prepared to be flexible with your role. Take opportunities as they arise; the profession is diverse and you may stumble across something you did not think you'd like doing as you gain experience.