



**Francesca Sephton**

## **AAC Specialist Speech and Language Therapist ATtherapy**

### **What does your current role involve?**

I am currently working for an independent speech and language therapy service which provides specialist input within the area of AAC and assistive technology. I work with clients at home and in schools across the North West region.

### **What was your first role after graduating?**

I worked in a school for children and adolescents with ASC aged 5-19 and I set up a SALT service in a primary school for pupils with Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties.

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

I knew which area I wanted to work in before I started the course as I carried out voluntary work in a school for children with special needs and thoroughly enjoyed this.

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

I gathered experience in the field of AAC in my first job but really built upon this when I moved to work within a bigger MDT within a specialist college for people with a range of complex communication difficulties where I undertook a lot of AAC assessment and intervention. Here I was secretary for the NW AAC clinical excellence network (CEN) and my interest in AAC led me to apply for the job at Attherapy.

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

I have always been really reflective as a practitioner and have sought out training to improve my practice. I always share what I have learnt with my team and think about how I can apply it to make a difference to the people that I am working with.

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

Link in with the CENs and relevant groups such as 1Voice.

Look out for training opportunities as it is a really exciting but fast moving field!

Be innovative and flexible when working in this area.

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