



Megan McCormick

Speech and Language Therapist I CAN Dawn House School

What does your job involve?

I work in a specialist school for children 5-19 years old with severe or complex communication difficulties or Asperger's. I work predominately in the sixth form with students age 16-19 years old. I share the sixth form case load, with one other SLT. Duties: Set and review targets, 1:1 SLT therapy, SLT groups, SLT lesson input, case notes, reports, annual reviews.

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

I started my job on the 4th September 2017.

I looked on the I CAN website and saw there was a job for a NQP advertised.

How did you prepare for interviews?

Prepared a presentation to fit the details which were sent to me prior to my interview.

Made notes on my strengths, relevant experience for this job, read evidence base around Autism and Asperger's.

Scrutinised the school website, read their policies such as safeguarding, noted questions I wanted to ask.

What does your typical day look like?

My typical day depends on the day of the week. Due to the collaborative model I work within, I attend 50% of lessons, supporting students to access learning. I joint plan with teachers and support students in small groups. The remainder of the time I see students either 1:1 or in small groups. The type of work on my case load varies from: AAC, dysfluency work, vocabulary groups, working with selective mutism, speech sounds/dyspraxia work, phonological awareness and social anxiety/social stories. I complete notes for all sessions and for all students in lessons where I am present. Some children also have classroom SLT targets based on their level of need. I work collaboratively with teachers, educational psychologist, well-being team and other SLTs when necessary.

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

I have a weekly 40 minute session timetabled to address my NQP competencies.

I have the opportunity to discuss and evidence my competencies with my supervisor, who I meet with on a weekly basis.

I have management supervision with my line manager, and clinical supervision with my supervisor / mentor.

My advice to students:

- Ask a lot of questions.
- Prepare but don't overthink it.
- Think about your interview answers and expand but stay on topic.
- Believe in yourself. Sell yourself.
- Don't lose heart if you don't get your first job- there is a lot of competition.
- Ask for feedback after interviews especially if you are not offered the post.
- Your first job WILL be a challenge.

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