



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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