

The benefits of a blended placement

I recently completed placement in West Sussex with the Early Years Clinic Team, 2 days a week for 5 weeks. I learnt all about speech sound assessment and therapy. I learnt how to create activities to facilitate speech sounds therapy through PowerPoints shared via teletherapy. I also had the opportunity to observe their autism diagnostic service.

I really enjoyed observing the role of SLT in diagnosing autistic spectrum conditions (ASC). I also found it interesting to observe the impact of the pandemic on the service. I learnt when switching to face to face sessions was essential, either due to unreliable technology or being unable to determine whether a child is making a sound or not. I also found it fascinating to see how teletherapy had expanded service delivery since children who previously would have been unable to attend clinic were now able to access SLT.

The placement gave a mixture of teletherapy and face to face experience since all teletherapy sessions were completed in the office with my practice educator. The team were so welcoming and accommodating which made the experience much richer. I learnt a lot from sitting in on team supervision sessions and informal discussions in between sessions in the office. This gave me a more holistic view of how the service worked. This also gave me an insight into where I would like to work when I qualify.

Ceri Read

2nd year MSc student at City University, London

