



Julie Anne Cota

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What does your current role involve?

I work in an academy of 5 primary schools and three 2-year-old settings. I have an overview of all the children with SLCN. I assess some of the children and work closely with NHS SLTs. I also support the school SLT Teaching Assistants to carry out therapy.

What was your first role after graduating?

I worked as a Research Assistant (RA) with Newcastle University and Northumbria Healthcare. I carried out assessments with reception aged children across Northumberland.

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

I always knew I'd prefer working with young people than adults. During my final placement at University I really enjoyed working in schools.

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

The RA post was temporary and equipped me with good experience for applying for posts in the NHS. My 2nd NHS post was also temporary then whilst in role became permanent. I gained a lot of experience of school working which gave me the skills and confidence to apply directly to work in Education.

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

Regular clinical supervision and in service training sessions around the topics in Education have been invaluable to help me develop skills and knowledge in this area. I have also attended Clinical Excellence Networks in specific areas such as Speech Sounds. I regularly read Bulletin and journal articles too.

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

- Gain as much experience in working in schools as possible.
- Ask lots of questions
- Be familiar with the national curriculum and issues in school
- Be aware that working in schools often includes secondary too

Contact me: Twitter @pinkjules_16