



Nikki Freeman

Independent Speech and Language Therapist

Nikki Freeman Speech and Language Therapy Services Ltd.

What does your job involve?

I work with children in three mainstream primary schools in the Birmingham area.

I assess new referrals from the school, which include children with phonological difficulties, receptive and expressive language difficulties, social interaction difficulties and dysfluency, and I deliver intervention both directly and indirectly, working with school staff.

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

I started my job in September 2016.

The post came to my attention through an e-mail from the clinical placement co-ordination team at university, offering the opportunity for an NQT to work through the competency framework with an independent speech and language therapy company .

How did you prepare for interviews?

I was lucky enough to be invited to an informal meeting with the Directors outlining what it's like to work independently and how it differs from the traditional NHS route. This gave me the opportunity to ask questions about the role and target my 'revision' of my skills.

What does your typical day look like?

I arrive at school before the school day starts to enable me to liaise with the school SENCO, class teachers and teaching assistants who help deliver intervention. If I have arranged to meet any parents, this will be at the start or towards the end of the school day. New referrals take priority, then I deliver interventions either 1:1 or within small groups, often alongside school staff. Targets are reviewed regularly, at least termly or sooner if the children are making good progress. Case notes are written during playtimes, lunch time and at the end of the school day. Reports are also written outside of school hours.

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

When I first started my role I worked alongside experienced, qualified therapists in schools. I had weekly supervision which continued until I completed my competencies in September 2017. I am now responsible for arranging my own supervision.

My advice to students:

- Consider volunteering to gain experience and to work with different client groups.
- Consider all of the employment options available to you.
- Learn from every experience and remember to focus on the positive.

Contact me: nikkifreemanspeech@yahoo.com