




<p><i>Name</i></p>	<p>Clare Slater</p> 
<p><i>How long have you been a paediatric speech and language therapist?</i></p>	<p>20 years</p>
<p><i>What inspired you to be a speech and language therapist (SLT)?</i></p>	<p>When looking round a hospital at various job roles, I was inspired to become a SLT when I observed an assessment and therapy being carried out on a lady who had suffered a stroke and couldn't communicate in the way she used to. I knew then that I wanted to help others achieve their potential and make a difference to their lives.</p>
<p><i>What does your role involve?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessing and treating children with speech, language and communication difficulties.</li> <li>• Demonstrating techniques and training others (mostly school staff and parents) thereby enabling them to practise activities with the children.</li> <li>• All the admin associated with the above!</li> </ul>
<p><i>How did you get into this career? What steps did it take since leaving school?</i></p>	<p>I applied for a recognised course when I was 18 and did my 4-year joint honours degree in Speech and Psychology at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne.</p>
<p><i>Can you tell us a bit about the training you undertook for your role?</i></p>	<p>Most of my training was done on the job when I resumed my career following a career break when bringing up my children. Doing refresher courses, shadowing colleagues then receiving training for my specialism (stammering) were all important.</p>



<p><i>What's been the highlight of your career so far?</i></p>	<p>Nothing particularly stands out, though it's always rewarding when parents of children are particularly grateful and recognise the effort and time I've invested in their child.</p>
<p><i>What do you like most about your role/career?</i></p>	<p>When children's speech and language skills have improved thereby enabling them to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• speak clearer</li> <li>• others can communicate successfully with them</li> <li>• know how to manage their stammering</li> </ul>
<p><i>What's the most challenging part of your role?</i></p>	<p>When others aren't always on board when it comes to putting a SLT programme in place and I really need their input for change to happen.</p>
<p><i>What's a typical day like for you in your role?</i></p>	<p>It could involve any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning practically what to do for each child that day</li> <li>• Packing bags full of games/toys</li> <li>• Travelling to 1-2 schools or a clinic</li> <li>• Writing notes, updating goals</li> <li>• Phone calls with service users</li> <li>• Maybe an online video appointment</li> <li>• Team meeting</li> <li>• Planning appointments for the coming days/weeks.</li> <li>• Doing emails (don't we all!), sending resources, liaising with colleagues, other professionals, parents etc.</li> </ul>
<p><i>What are the main skills needed to do your role?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Empathy</li> <li>• Enthusiasm</li> <li>• Ability to think quickly (so you can change your planned activities to easier or harder ones)</li> <li>• Being organised</li> <li>• Good communicator with all age groups</li> </ul>
<p><i>Do you have any advice for someone considering your career?</i></p>	<p>It provides great variety - from playing cars on the floor with a 3-year-old, helping a 12-year-old deal with teasing for their stammer to training school staff on the importance of vocabulary learning. Just knowing that you</p>



	can impact the quality of someone's life is so rewarding.
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