




<p><i>Name</i></p>	<p>Susie Robertson</p> 
<p><i>How long have you been speech and language therapist (SLT)?</i></p>	<p>15 years.</p>
<p><i>What inspired you to be a speech and language therapist?</i></p>	<p>In my gap year, I worked in a school as a teaching assistant and one of the children saw a speech and language therapist. I observed a session and loved it!</p>
<p><i>What does your role involve?</i></p>	<p>Working with children and young people with a range of communication difficulties, e.g., difficulties with producing sounds; understanding, learning and using words; putting sentences together etc. I also specialise in working with young people who stammer.</p>
<p><i>How did you get into this career? What steps did it take since leaving school?</i></p>	<p>I took science and maths A levels because I wanted to be a vet! While applying, unsuccessfully, I had 2 gap years working in different part time jobs deciding what to do. After learning more about being a SLT I researched the universities that offered the course and went to Newcastle University.</p>
<p><i>Can you tell us a bit about the training you undertook for your role?</i></p>	<p>I did a 4-year full time BSc course. We had lectures, problem-based learning teaching groups and university-based clinics for speech disorders, literacy difficulties and stroke rehabilitation. In different years we had different clinical placements in acute and community settings, with a range of client groups. We qualified able to work with</p>



	adults or children and went on to specialise from there.
<i>What's been the highlight of your career so far?</i>	There have been loads of highlights! Taking one of the children I worked with, who stammers, to the Trust board meeting, for him to tell them his story was a recent highlight.
<i>What do you like most about your role/career?</i>	I love the variety of professionals, settings and children we work with. In my leadership role I really enjoy recruiting newly qualified therapists and seeing them develop their skills. An everyday highlight is our great team and the families we work for.
<i>What's the most challenging part of your role?</i>	Managing time and priorities so different bits of my role all get done.
<i>What's a typical day like for you in your role?</i>	Every day is different, really varied and busy! There's usually a mix of clinical work, service development projects or meetings, and some line manager responsibilities.
<i>What are the main skills needed to do your role?</i>	Be a great problem solver - clinically you use your academic learning to piece together information from different areas to make a diagnosis, deliver therapy and make it fun! Also, in a leadership role, to be flexible and be a good listener.
<i>Do you have any advice for someone considering your career?</i>	Get as much experience as possible with working with children with a range of communication skills, including typically developing skills. Go for it, it's a great career!