

Speech and Language Therapist Apprentice Job Description

Job Purpose:

- To assist the SLTs in the delivery of a wide range of intervention packages in relation to the whole system approach to supporting speech, language, and communication needs (SLCN) across the school.
- To assist the team in ensuring active involvement of staff across all areas of the school. The post holder will assist the school team to ensure quality of access to speech and language therapy support.
- To complete the 4 year speech and language therapy apprenticeship programme. This consists of a 2 year Healthcare assistant practitioner qualification followed by an additional 2 year Speech and Language Therapy degree apprenticeship. After the 4 years you will be a qualified speech and language therapist.
- Training will be funded by the Academy but a condition of this will be that once qualified you remain with the school for a minimum for 2 years. If you leave before this, then the training costs will be repayable to the Academy.

Duties and responsibilities:

- To plan and implement programmes of support to pupils with support and under the direction of the Speech and Language Therapy team, to promote development of communication, language, speech skills and eating and drinking (with training) for pupils.
- To conduct therapy activities independently in 1:1 and group-based sessions, under the direction of the Speech and Language Therapist e.g. play skills, Lis'n tell Live inclusive storytelling, Intensive Interaction, Lego therapy etc
- To support the use of Alternative and Augmentative Communication systems across the school through modelling and training to staff e.g. switches, communication books, powered devices, signing, visuals within the classroom.
- To assist the SLTs in assessments, such as taking observations of children's communication skills e.g. social communication, play, attention, understanding, language and speech.
- To contribute to clinical teams both multi-disciplinary and uni-disciplinary by discussing own and others input around children's needs (this may include attendance at meetings).
- To demonstrate empathy and adapt practice with pupils, carers, families and colleagues from linguistic and cultural minority groups ensuring that effective communication is achieved, particularly where barriers to understanding exist
- To ensure that children, families and carers are involved in the planning of appropriate activities wherever possible.
- To provide advice to other staff and to liaise with the sensory team regarding needs of the pupils.

Autonomous practice and planning

- To be accountable to the Specialist Support and Therapy Team Lead and Senior SLTs.
- To recognise own professional boundaries, seeking advice from senior colleagues as appropriate
- To work within defined departmental and national protocols/policies and professional code of conduct
- To work under the direction and supervision, of the Specialist Support and Therapy Team Lead and Senior SLTs accessing appraisal within an Individual Performance Framework at pre-determined intervals

Strategic development/implementation

- To ensure that the support services provided reflect the priorities and principles of the special needs team in relation to all families, including those from linguistic and cultural minority groups
- To be aware of and adhere to service and team plans and policies
- To comment on proposed service/policy developments as appropriate, and suggest changes accordingly

Supporting others

- To assist in volunteer placements as appropriate
- To explain the role of Speech and Language Therapy to families and school staff
- To participate in the development and delivery of informal training to both families from staff

Data Management

- To maintain up to date and accurate case notes in line with RCSLT professional standards and local trust policies
- To share information with others, observing data protection guidelines under the direction of the Specialist Support and Therapy Team Lead and Senior SLTs.
- To assist in gathering activity data accurately and regularly, ensuring the provision of such information promptly

Quality, Research and Audit

- To support the SLT service to undertake audit projects and gather outcomes of therapy.
- To collect and provide research data as required under the direction of the Senior SLTs.
- To participate in Continuing Professional Development
- To identify personal/professional development evidenced by Personal Development Plan/ Professional Portfolio developed within an appraisal framework
- To participate in Individual Performance Review ensuring that the objectives set reflect the school's team key priorities
- To attend relevant training and development in order to maintain skills and knowledge required of an SLT Assistant/ SLT.
- To attend relevant courses, meetings and special interest groups
- To develop a working knowledge of relevant procedures including: Safeguarding Children and other legal frameworks
- To reflect on practice with peers/supervisor.

Health and Safety

- To have due regard for your own personal safety and that of children/carers, in particular with regard to moving and handling regulations, behaviour policies and ensure the safe positioning of self and others
- To manage children with challenging behaviours including the application of appropriate management strategies
- To work within infection control and health and safety guidelines

Information technology

- To use computer and computer software to prepare reports, resources and documents relevant to working duties e.g. word, power point, Communicate in Print/Boardmaker

This job description gives a general outline of the post and is not intended to be inflexible or a final list of duties. It may therefore be amended from time to time in consultation with the post holder.