

Joined Up Careers Derbyshire

Speech and language therapy

What is a speech and language therapist?

The role of a speech and language therapist (SLT) is to improve the quality of life, health and wellbeing for people with communication difficulties and/or dysphagia (eating, drinking and swallowing difficulties).

There is a huge variety of roles - some SLTs work with children to identify their communication difficulties and develop their skills so they can reach their full potential. These children may have speech difficulties, learning disabilities, autism, a cleft lip and palate, or hearing impairment.

SLTs also work with adults with conditions that affect their communication and/or swallowing such as stroke, dementia or Parkinson's disease. Others might carry out research, work in specialist units or provide advice on communication aids.

SLTs work in a variety of settings including hospitals, nursing homes, in the community, schools, and people's homes.

Do you have what it takes?

To become a SLT, you will need to study to a degree or postgraduate level at university. A degree apprenticeship option is now being developed. Entry requirements vary but often ask for three A Levels and five GCSEs (or equivalent).

Being able to motivate and engage with people is vital to this role, as are excellent communication skills, flexibility and organisation skills.

What's in it for you?

- Excellent employment prospects
- Competitive pay
- Progression opportunities
- Flexibility
- Variety of settings

How can I find out more?

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