

# 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020 – Career of the Week

## Speech & Language Therapist

Help children & adults who have speaking & communication problems.

[National Careers Service](#)

[www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk](http://www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk)



### Entry Requirements

You can get into this job through a University course or an apprenticeship.

#### University

You'll need a degree in speech and language therapy that's approved by the [Health and Care Professions Council](#) (HCPC).

If you've got a degree in a science or language-based subject, you could do a 2-year fast-track postgraduate course in speech and language therapy.

You'll find it helpful to get some paid or [voluntary experience](#) in the health or care sector before you apply for a course.

You could contact the voluntary services co-ordinator at your [local NHS trust](#) for further advice.

Entry requirements - You'll usually need:

- 2 to 3 A levels, or equivalent, for a degree
- a degree in a relevant subject for postgraduate study

#### Apprenticeship

You can do a speech and language therapist degree apprenticeship.

Entry requirements - You'll usually need:

- 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A\* to C) and A levels, or equivalent, for a degree apprenticeship

#### More information

#### **Registration**

- you'll need to register with the [Health and Care Professions Council](#)

#### **Further information**

You can find out more about becoming a speech and language therapist from:

- [Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists](#)
- [Health Careers](#)

## What you'll do

Your day-to-day tasks may include:

- talking to clients, observing them and using tests to assess specific difficulties
- planning and developing therapy programmes
- supporting clients through treatment
- working closely with colleagues like doctors and teachers
- coaching parents and carers to continue their therapy at home
- keeping detailed progress records
- working with groups or individuals to improve the way they communicate

## Skills Required – You'll need:

- knowledge of English language
- sensitivity and understanding
- the ability to work well with others
- to be flexible and open to change
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- excellent verbal communication skills
- patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- knowledge of teaching and the ability to design courses
- to be able to carry out basic tasks on a computer or hand-held device

## Related Careers

- Physiotherapist
- Speech and language therapy assistant
- Audiologist
- Learning disability nurse
- Occupational therapist

## Salary

**These figures are a guide.**

Starter: £ 24,214

Experienced: £ 43,772

## Working Hours

Typical hours – 38 to 40 hours per week  
(Usually between 8am & 6pm)

## Working Environment

You could work at a school, in an NHS or private hospital, at a health centre, in a nursery or at a client's home.

Your working environment may be emotionally demanding.

## Career paths and progression

With experience, you could specialise in areas like:

- helping children with special educational needs
- helping eating, drinking and swallowing disorders (dysphagia)

With further training, you could move into teaching and research.

You could also become self-employed.

What is labour market information?

**Labour Market Information (LMI)** is the name for facts and figures about jobs and employment.

The information is used to give an overall picture of the past, present and future of work.

The **labour market** is the term used to describe the amount of people working and looking for work, and the amount of jobs.

## Labour Market Information

In **North West England** there are currently 1939 Speech & Language Therapists in employment.

[www.icould.com](http://www.icould.com)