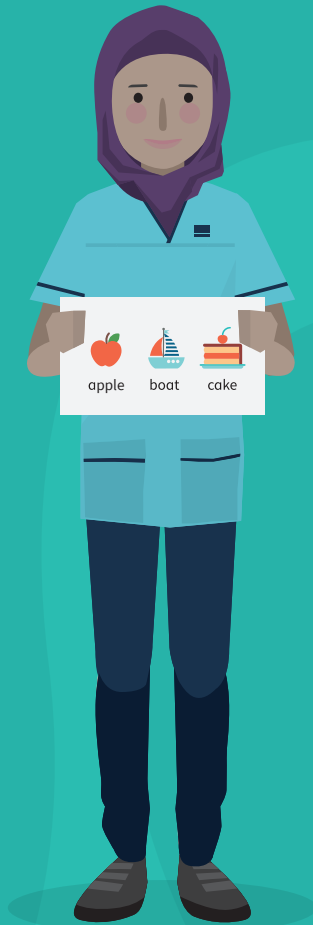


Introducing

# Speech and language therapist

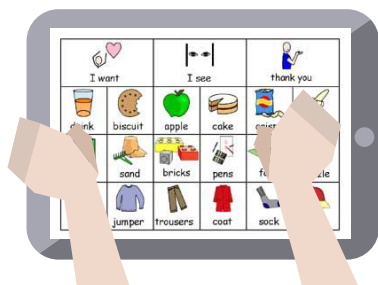


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## About the role

Speech and language therapists provide treatment and care for children and young people, adults, and older people who have communication, eating, drinking or swallowing problems.

**“Sometimes a person’s ability to speak or communicate is limited by a health condition, like Parkinson’s or locked-in syndrome. I teach people to use alphabet charts, iPads and tablets to help them express their feelings, call for help, listen to music or even change the TV channel. This gives them back a level of independence and some control over their environment.”**

*– Speech and language therapist*

### Did you know?

Nearly 20% of the population may experience communication difficulties at some point in their lives.<sup>(1)</sup> There are around 16,500 registered speech and language therapists in the UK<sup>(2)</sup> and more than 1,000 working in the NHS in Scotland.<sup>(3)</sup>

### → How to pursue this role

You can get into this career through a Speech and Language Therapy undergraduate or postgraduate degree programme. You’ll then need to register with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC).

### ☆ Top skills:

- caring for people
- working in a team
- communicating with people
- problem-solving skills
- persuading and motivating people
- critical thinking skills

#### References:

1. ‘Communication support needs: a review of the literature’ (2007) *Scottish Executive Social Research*, Executive Summary, pp. V
2. Health and Care Professions Council, registrant data, September 2020
3. Turas Data Intelligence, NHSScotland workforce data, June 2020

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