



Rachel Wyper

Curriculum Vitae

Rachel qualified as a speech and language therapist in 2008 with a BSc (Hons) in Speech and Language Therapy from Queen Margaret University in Edinburgh. She is registered with the Health Professions Council, a member of the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists and a member of the Association of Speech and Language Therapists in Independent Practice.

Rachel is the Director of Confident Communication Therapy Ltd (CCT) and a Co-Founder of Neuro Rehab Group.

Rachel specialises in treating adults and children with complex communication support needs. This includes working with individuals who present with behaviours that challenge services and those who have high level language impairments that are affected by cognition. She also works with children and adults who have eating, drinking and swallowing problems (Dysphagia).

Rachel plays an active role in the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists and previously acted as the lead link between her health board and the college.

Following qualification Rachel started work in Ayrshire and Arran Health Board and completed rotations in adult and paediatric settings in the community and acute sectors. In 2010 Rachel accepted the promoted post of community specialist working with children in schools, nurseries and community clinics. She independently managed a caseload which included children with a wide variety of communication support needs, in mainstream and special needs settings. She continued to develop her skills and supported families through initial diagnosis of life long conditions. She also worked in school settings, liaising with teachers and other professionals to ensure the needs of her clients were best met. This post involved working with children from birth up to school leaving age. Rachel also worked with the specialist fluency clinic and developed her skills working with children and adults who stammer.

Since 2008 Rachel has worked with adults with a learning disability and has continued to develop her skills and interest in this area.

In 2011 Rachel accepted a specialist post working with the community learning disability team. This involved managing the caseload of adults with learning disabilities who presented with dysphagia and communication support needs. She also had responsibility for supporting less experienced colleagues and supervising a full time assistant. Rachel was involved in developing a local dysphagia support group within her health board, which allowed clinicians of varying experience to share good practice and problem solve challenging cases.

Rachel took a lead role in the MDT learning disability team and continued to develop her specialist skills working with people who display behaviours which challenge services, associated with communication support needs. She acted as a consultant to support care providers and relevant others to manage challenging behaviour. Part of her role involved extensively training throughout the health board on the subject of communication and challenging behaviour.

Rachel has a special interest in alternative and augmentative communication, including both low and high tech systems. She has developed skills in and promoted the use of iPads and iPhones as communication aids within her practice. Rachel will include technology wherever this is possible in her practice and she has had achieved successful outcomes via Skype.

Rachel is experienced and trained in managing eating, drinking and swallowing difficulties in adults and children. She also has a post graduate qualification in Cervical Auscultation.

Rachel has often been involved in vulnerable adult cases, supporting psychiatry in establishing capacity based on the client's ability to understand decisions and to express choices and decisions. She has also been involved in investigations with social work when allegations of abuse have been explored, when the adult had no ability to effectively express themselves verbally.

Rachel sat on the accessible information group in Ayrshire with professionals from adult services. The aim of this group was to ensure all information produced by the Health Board was in an accessible format for clients with communication support needs.

Rachel has worked in the independent sector as a speech and language therapist since 2010, supporting adults and children in the community and in rehabilitation settings.

Rachel began working as a Brain Injury Case Manager in 2013 which developed her skills in neurological rehabilitation and has deepened her understanding of brain injury and its impact on individuals and wider family life.

In addition to treating communication and swallowing disorders, Rachel has developed a passion in training others to better understand communication support needs, high level language difficulties, accessible information, communication and associated challenging behaviour and dysphagia awareness. Rachel is passionate about providing bespoke training that suits individuals and carer/support needs.

As part of her independent practice, Rachel has acted as the lead therapist at career convention evenings in independent schools.

Rachel is an active member of the Central Neuro Rehab Clinical Excellence Network and is also a member of the Dysphagia Special Interest Group. She is also a UCL (London's Global University) Better Conversations with Dysarthria Champion.

Rachel has qualifications in British Sign Language at Stage 2 level.