



Jenny Busby

Specialist Speech and Language Therapist

Introduce yourself. Where do you work? What is your job role?

My name is Jenny Busby, and I am a Speech and Language Therapist (SLT) working within the Belfast Trust. Clinically, I operate within the Community Adult Learning Disability team. Additionally, I hold a training and governance role across the Speech and Language Therapy Service.

What does your job entail?

My job involves supporting the communication, eating, and drinking needs of adults with learning disabilities. This entails working within a large multidisciplinary team and in various community settings. Additionally, I collaborate with all SLT staff and the management team to address the training needs of staff, manage student placements, and oversee governance activities across the SLT service. The two aspects of my job provide great variety to my working week.

How did you get into this line of work?

During my time at school, I had a keen interest in pursuing a career where I could help people and had contemplated roles such as teaching or nursing. After discussions with careers teachers and some research on potential jobs, I discovered Speech and Language Therapy, and it felt like exactly what I was looking for. I applied to study at Newcastle University and have not looked back since.

Outline your career to date?

I graduated in 2009 and spent a number of years working in England. I worked within paediatric services and began to build an interest in supporting the communication, eating, and drinking needs of children with learning disabilities. When I moved home to Northern Ireland, I was able to continue working within learning disability services, taking up a post within an Adult Learning Disability team. More recently, I have begun to work within a training and governance role. This has allowed me to more thoroughly develop my understanding of the whole Speech and Language Therapy Service. It enables me to work closely not only with SLTs within my trust but also with SLTs in other trusts and my colleagues in similar roles within other allied health professional roles.

Tell us about your qualifications and training?

I studied Speech and Language Sciences for four years at Newcastle University, earning a BSc (Hons) Speech and Language Sciences degree. Since starting my career, there have been many opportunities for me to attend additional training courses relevant to the client group I work with. I have also been able to take advantage of training to develop other skills, such as leadership and running quality improvement projects.

What qualities are required for your job – personal and professional?

Speech and Language Therapy is such a varied profession. It is important to be caring, a good problem solver, and a great team member.

What is the best advice you have ever received?

It is so important to enjoy what you do.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I enjoy spending time with my family and socialising with friends.

Tell us an interesting fact about yourself?

Once upon a time, I used to teach aerobics and worked in Camp America for a summer teaching an aerobics class.

Who has inspired you most in your life?

There are lots of people who have inspired me during my life and career but my initial inspiration to have a job that helped people came directly from my mother who was a nurse.

What advice would you give your 16-year-old self?

Be happy, do what you enjoy and don't stress if you don't have all the answers yet!