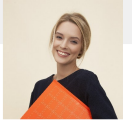


# Megan Hargreaves

## SPEECH & LANGUAGE THERAPIST



### CONTACT

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### PROFILE

HCPC-registered speech and language therapist with four years of experience working with children and young people with speech, language, and communication needs. Currently a Band 6 SLT in a community paediatric team in Liverpool, managing a caseload of 45 children aged 2-11. I have a particular interest in developmental language disorder and augmentative and alternative communication. Completed Hanen and Makaton training and I'm working towards my RCSLT clinical excellence award.

### EXPERIENCE

*Jun 2023 – Present*

**Band 6 Speech & Language Therapist – Community Paediatrics**, Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust, Liverpool  
Community paediatric SLT providing assessment and intervention for children aged 2-11 across mainstream schools and nurseries in South Liverpool.

- Manage a caseload of **45 children** with speech sound disorders, developmental language disorder, selective mutism, and autism-related communication needs
- Deliver **Hanen "It Takes Two to Talk"** parent groups — 4 groups per year with 8-10 families per cohort
- Trained **35 teaching assistants** across 8 primary schools on Colourful Semantics and visual support strategies
- Set up an **AAC lending library** with 12 low-tech and high-tech devices for trial periods before funding applications

*Sep 2021 – May 2023*

**Band 5 Speech & Language Therapist**, Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust, Liverpool

SLT in the adult acquired communication and dysphagia team, covering acute wards at Aintree University Hospital and community caseloads.

- Managed a caseload of **25-30 adult patients** with aphasia, dysarthria, and cognitive-communication disorders following stroke and TBI
- Conducted **videofluoroscopy assessments** jointly with radiology — 3-4 per week
- Ran a weekly **aphasia conversation group** with 6-8 regular participants, improving functional communication scores by an average of 18% over 12 weeks
- Trained **40+ ward staff** on dysphagia awareness and safe feeding practices

### EDUCATION

*Sep 2019 – Jun 2021*

**MSc in Speech and Language Therapy**, University of Manchester, Manchester

Pre-registration MSc (2 years). Completed 300+ hours of clinical placement across paediatric, adult, and special school settings. Dissertation on *teacher perceptions of speech and language support in mainstream primary schools*. Graduated with Distinction.

*Sep 2015 – Jun 2019*

**BA (Hons) in Linguistics**, University of Liverpool, Liverpool

First Class Honours. Modules in phonetics, language acquisition, and psycholinguistics. Year abroad at Utrecht University studying multilingual language development.

### SKILLS

Paediatric speech & language assessment • Developmental language disorder intervention • AAC (augmentative & alternative communication) • Hanen-certified (It Takes Two to Talk) • Makaton signing • Dysphagia assessment (FEES, videofluoroscopy) • Aphasia rehabilitation • Colourful Semantics & visual supports • Parent & school staff training • CELF-5, RAPT, ACE, and PLS-5 assessment tools

### CERTIFICATIONS

*Sep 2021*

**HCPC Registration – Speech & Language Therapist**, Health and Care Professions Council

*Mar 2024*

**Hanen Certified – It Takes Two to Talk**, Hanen Centre

*Sep 2021*

**RCSLT Membership**, Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists

### LANGUAGES

English (native) • Dutch (conversational)

### PROJECTS

*Jan 2024 – Jun 2024*

**AAC Lending Library – Alder Hey Children's NHSFT**

Created a lending library of AAC devices for families to trial before submitting funding applications.

- Sourced **12 devices** (low-tech communication books, GoTalk, and iPad-based AAC apps) through charitable donations and trust funding
- Used by **18 families** in the first year — 14 went on to receive funded devices through NHS continuing care
- Reduced average time-to-device from **9 months to 4 months** by providing evidence of device suitability during trials

Mar 2022 – Mar 2023

### **Aphasia Conversation Group – Mersey Care NHSFT**

Set up and facilitated a weekly conversation group for adults with aphasia following stroke.

- Ran **48 sessions** over 12 months with 6-8 regular participants
- Average improvement of **18% on Conversation Analysis Profile** scores over 12-week blocks
- Group cited by participants as the most valued part of their therapy — featured in the trust's annual patient experience report

## **REFERENCES**

**Dr Claire Nugent**

Lead SLT – Community Paediatrics, Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust, claire.nugent@alderhey.nhs.uk, +44 7700 900 741

**Joanne Fletcher**

SLT Team Lead – Adult Acquired, Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust, joanne.fletcher@merseycare.nhs.uk, +44 7700 900 459

## **EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITY**

Jan 2023

### **Volunteer – Communication Access UK**

Train businesses and public services on communication accessibility for people with speech and language difficulties. Delivered training to 6 organisations in Liverpool including libraries and GP surgeries.

Jun 2024

### **Committee Member – RCSLT CEN Paediatric SLT Network (North West)**

Help organise quarterly CPD events for paediatric SLTs across the North West. 40-60 attendees per event, covering topics from DLD intervention to AAC funding pathways.