

# Jemma Nelson

Expert Witness

SaLT

Cumbria



## Professional Background

Jemma Nelson is a highly experienced Speech and Language Therapist with twelve years of clinical practice working across health, education and community settings. She has extensive expertise in assessing and supporting children and young people with a wide range of speech, language and communication needs, including speech sound disorders, language disorders, social communication difficulties and stammering, and has worked with both organic and acquired presentations as well as children with cleft lip and palate conditions. Her clinical work also encompasses the assessment and management of children with learning disabilities, autism, cerebral palsy, physical disabilities and co-occurring communication needs, reflecting broad experience across complex developmental and neurological profiles.

Throughout her career she has managed a diverse caseload autonomously, undertaking detailed diagnostic assessments and developing evidence-based intervention programmes to support functional communication outcomes. She has significant experience in conducting dynamic assessments and trialling Alternative and Augmentative Communication approaches, ensuring that recommendations are appropriately aligned to a child's developmental level and communication environment. She has additionally worked with children and young people presenting with social, emotional and mental health needs where these directly affect communication, integrating clinical assessment with collaborative work alongside mental health teams.

Jemma's roles have included leading Early Help assessments and coordinating support around the child to meet identified needs, involving joint work with families, education staff and wider professionals. She has contributed regularly to Education, Health and Care assessments and plans, ensuring that clinical evidence is clearly presented to support optimal provision. Her professional background includes extensive experience across health clinics, private and voluntary sector nurseries, mainstream and specialist schools, resource bases and special schools, giving her a comprehensive understanding of how communication needs manifest across settings and stages of development.

She has held senior leadership responsibilities as Clinical Lead for a Children's Speech and Language Therapy service, where she oversaw clinical pathways, service consistency and workforce development. Her work included liaison with commissioners to respond to changing service demands and the development of targeted and universal service offers to improve communication outcomes at a population level. She has also undertaken audit activity to evaluate service effectiveness and inform quality improvement, contributing to practice development and workforce capability. Jemma maintains her professional practice through ongoing training, reflective supervision and continued engagement with evidence-based approaches, including recent learning related to managing challenging behaviour and complex cases in community settings. She is registered with the Health and Care Professions Council, the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists and the Association of Speech and Language Therapists in Independent Practice. Jemma is fully trained in the Civil Procedure Rules, including relevant revisions as they arise.

## Specialisms

- Neurological conditions & injuries
  - Cerebral palsy & Genetic disorders
  - Cognitive disability
- Sensory Impairment
  - Deafness
  - Multi-sensory Impairment
- Cleft Lip and Palate condition
- Mental health & learning disability
  - Learning Disability
  - Autism Spectrum Disorder
  - ADHD
  - Down's syndrome
  - Challenging behaviour
  - Developmental delay

## Age group

- Paediatric
- CYP



## Career history

- Highly Specialist Speech and Language Therapist  
North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust 2019 - Present
- Clinical Lead, Children's Speech and Language Therapy  
Cumbria, England, United Kingdom 2022 - 2024
- Specialist Speech and Language Therapist 2014 - 2019
- Speech And Language Therapist
- Speech And Language Therapist  
NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde 2013 - 2014

## Qualifications

- Queen Margaret University  
Bachelor of Science - BS, Speech and  
Language Therapy ·  
September 2009 - May 2013

## Professional Memberships

- HCPC
- RCSLT

