As a Speech therapist, you'll treat patients of all age group who have various levels of speech, language and communication problems, or difficulties in swallowing, drinking or eating.

You could deal with a diverse client group, including people with physical and learning disabilities, hearing loss/deafness, psychiatric disorders or dementia, and could treat a range of conditions, including cleft palate, stammering, language delay and voice disorders.

You'll usually work as part of a multidisciplinary team alongside other health professionals, and will often liaise with family or teachers when developing treatment plans.

**Responsibilities**

Your tasks will vary depending on your client and the nature of the problem. However, you'll typically need to:

* identify the speech and communication difficulty or disorder;
* assess the cause and nature of the problem, for example, congenital problems (such as cleft palate) or acquired disorders after a stroke or injury;
* devise and deliver a suitable treatment programme, working on a one-to-one basis or in groups, to enable each of your clients to improve as much as possible;
* review and revise the programme as appropriate;
* advise carers on implementing a treatment programme and train other professionals in therapy delivery;
* monitor and evaluate your clients' progress;
* write confidential client case notes and reports, as well as information for clients, carers and other professionals;
* manage a caseload while taking into account priority cases, waiting lists, successful outcomes, referral and discharge of service users;
* work within a team to improve the effectiveness of service delivery.

At a more senior level, you'll need to:

* conduct personal development reviews with colleagues;
* support Speech therapy assistants;
* plan and deliver training sessions;
* undertake clinical audit;
* participate in research projects.