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# Rhia Laycock

## Rhia Laycock is a Trainee Speech and Language Therapy Assistant Practitioner.

## The role I am in is completely new to the trust, working as an assistant whilst undergoing a Health Science course at the University of Essex before completing a specific Speech and Language Therapy course with the same University in (hopefully) 2 years’ time. I support Speech and Language Therapists by following therapy plans set out by the therapists with patients who are suitable – working through therapy and towards goals. I also complete admin duties to support the team and enable the therapists to prioritise their time with patients. However, being in an apprenticeship role, it is also important to have time with the therapists on more complex cases to increase my understanding and fulfil competencies relevant to the course.

## I wanted to have a job which felt fulfilling, knowing that what I am doing can directly, positively impact a patient’s experience, wellbeing, and recovery. After volunteering in the community with stroke patients for speech and language therapy I was drawn into the work which was done with them and wanted to expand my knowledge within this field and make it into a career

## As I am completing an apprenticeship I am always training, although not currently directly related to speech and language therapy, general health science training has aided me to understand the role of staff surrounding the patients as well as having more knowledge about health and decline within the acute setting.

## I am really proud of myself for starting something completely new and independently seeing patients, seemingly making a difference to their rehabilitation, and listening to the patient.

## Supporting Allied Health Professionals allows you to also support patients in a more specific way. Gaining an understanding of different areas of Allied Health and what is offered within both a hospital and community setting following an event for patients – focussing on rehabbing the patient, working towards goals important to, and set by/with them.