# Video transcript: Claire’s career journey in speech and language therapy

>>CLAIRE: My name's Claire Simpson. I'm a speech and language therapist, and I work in NHS Lothian as a speech and language therapist.

>>CLAIRE: We work with people to improve their communication and their ability to eat and drink. So, we work with people across the age bands and work between hospital setting, community setting and rehab unit.

>>CLAIRE: This might be a career that you would like to consider if you are caring, compassionate, that you would like to work with people and enhance people's lives.

>>CLAIRE: It’s also a good career if you are creative and you would like to change on a daily basis what you're doing as part of therapy and treatment.

And, also a good career to consider if you're interested in technology.

>>CLAIRE: A lot of our patients who can't speak verbally will use different communication aids that are what we call high-tech.

>>CLAIRE: So, we use things like eye-gaze devices, or we might use different types of apps or computer technology to help as well.

>>CLAIRE: I decided to become a speech and language therapist when I was at school. I wanted to do something that was related to the medical profession but knew I did not want to be a doctor.

>>CLAIRE: I shadowed some speech and language therapists to see what their job entailed, and I loved that it was about working with people one-on-one and helping people.

>>CLAIRE: So, it married that side of doing something that I felt that was helpful and useful. Also, that love of science and problem-solving as well.

>>CLAIRE: I love my job. If somebody asks me what I get to do, I always say I work with people to help them to eat and drink and to talk.

>>CLAIRE: The best part of my role is working with the patients. I love going to see a patient then present with a problem and then being able to problem-solve through what is wrong with them.

>>CLAIRE: So, what is wrong with their communication, where is their breakdown in their swallowing? So, you get to be a detective and I like that side of my job.

>>CLAIRE: I then also quite like trying to be able to help somebody to get better as well. And the best is when you see somebody go from having a problem or a difficulty to then them reaching their goals.

>>CLAIRE: One of the things that I find particularly surprising about the role of the SLT is that it is so varied. So, I, well first of all, never thought I would work with adults, but I do. I never get to take people to the x-ray department and have a look at their swallowing through X-rays.

>>CLAIRE: I get to look at people swallowing by passing a needle endoscope through their nose, so a little camera to have a look at how they swallow. And I also get to take part, um, an awake brain surgery where the patient will be awake and I'll go in and I'll assess their communication during surgery. I never thought I'd do anything like that.