

**RUTH MERRITT**  
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Enhanced Certificate UK DBS, HCPC Registered SL00935, RCSLT Member

## RECENT EMPLOYMENT

### EXPERT WITNESS IN MEDICO-LEGAL CASES

1998- to date *Expert witness in medico-legal cases and SEN Tribunals related to children and adults with deafness, specific language and learning disorder and/or cerebral palsy.*

- Over 20 years' experience medico-legal expert witness reports
- 35 years clinical experience in Speech and Language Therapy
- National Specialist in the field of deafness
- Wide range of clinical expertise including deafness, specific language impairment, autistic spectrum disorder, cerebral palsy and learning disability as well as providing assessment and advice regarding suitable Augmentative and Alternative Communication systems including eye gaze technology and symbol based systems for communication such as PECS (Picture Exchange Communication System), Grid 3 and Proloquo2go
- Sound grasp of legal principles & Civil Procedures Rules
- Clear understanding of the need for evidence based practice
- Detailed and comprehensive analysis of the speech and language of any client including semantics, grammar and phonology as well as pragmatic skills, including body language and social skills
- Impartial, analytical and logical approach
- Experience in being commissioned by claimant, defendant, and acting as a single joint expert
- Court experience during child abuse allegation case following forensic examination of child's language, as well as providing testimony in local Crown Courts

### THErapy INSPIRATION: INDEPENDENT SPECIALIST SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPIST:

April 2011- to date Independent practitioner undertaking a range of work:

- **Aspen and Whitfield School:** *weekly input to support over 100 children with complex and multiple difficulties including Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Cerebral Palsy and learning difficulties; developing a whole class approach and assisting teachers and teaching assistants in developing the children's communication skills.*
- **Ongoing support/ advice and therapy:** *children with deafness and/or cerebral palsy from medico-legal case interim payments- working closely with Case Managers and Solicitors to ensure best practice and provision for the child*
- **Doncaster School for the Deaf:** *Clinical supervision and assessments provided on a twice termly basis supporting two therapists working in the school and College*
- **Speech and Language Therapy postgraduate course, University of Greenwich:** *lecturing in the field of deafness, cochlear implants and acoustic phonetics*
- **Royal School for the Deaf, Margate:** *Supervision, management and clinical work overseeing small team of therapists and assistants working with children and young people with deafness, autism and a wide range of complex learning and behavioural difficulties*
- **Greenwich Education:** *One to one support for 14-year-old Greek boy with Cochlear Implant, developing his English language*
- **Oxleas NHS Trust:** *Supervision and clinical work providing assessment and intervention for families with deaf preschoolers*
- **Caldecott Foundation:** *Supervision, management and clinical work working with young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties*
- **Training and Supervision:** Cairo, Egypt: Children's centre

### GREAT ORMOND STREET HOSPITAL:

Oct 2002- March 2011 **Principal Speech and Language Therapist at Great Ormond Street Hospital Cochlear Implant Programme**

*Head of team of Specialist SLTs within field of deafness and cochlear implants. Special expertise in children on the autistic spectrum, children with dyspraxia and children with Cerebral Palsy. High level teaching and supervision commitment. Acknowledged expert on speech, language and deafness- regularly sought for second opinions across the UK*

Jan -June 2002

**Locum Principal Speech and Language Therapist at Great Ormond Street Hospital Cochlear Implant Programme**

## CSD CONSULTANTS: PARTNERSHIP ESTABLISHED IN CONJUNCTION WITH TWO COLLEAGUES IN 1996

- Aug 1996- to date *Independent Training organisation offering a range of postgraduate short courses. Two definitive postgraduate courses for therapist working in the field of deafness. A range of other courses designed for speech and language therapists and other professionals working with children and adults with communication difficulties. Bespoke courses and consultancy services to professional groups and NHS Trusts. Clinical Supervision/ mentoring.*
- Developing and lecturing on short courses "Working with Deaf People"- Parts 1 and 2 including teaching the PETAL procedure (Speech Assessment).
  - Bespoke courses for Speech and Language Therapists, Teachers of the Deaf and other professionals in the field of language assessment and development, deafness, communication tactics and presentation skills.
  - Acoustic phonetics training for Greenwich University
  - Clinical mentoring offered to therapists in a wide range of NHS trusts
  - Cochlear Implant Programmes: Conference presentations, lecturing and In-service Training Programmes.
  - Full training provided to Speech and Language Therapists at St George's Cochlear Implant Programme
  - Freelance visiting lecturer/Course Co-ordinator: NHCSS Short Courses- Introduction to Speech Therapy with Deaf People. Involvement in teaching week long courses since 1985, twice yearly.
  - Visiting lecturer on BSc and MSc Speech and Language Therapy courses at NHCSS and City University: Acquired Deafness, Congenital Deafness, 4th Year Option, Auditory Training, Visual Displays.
  - Lecture to the Twins Association: National Conference 1985.
  - Communication skills workshops.

## OVERSEAS TEACHING:

- May 2012 **Training/ supervision for Children's Centre in Cairo, Egypt:** *Week long course covering a range of Speech and Language topics. On-going supervision to therapists and second opinion assessments of complex cases*
- February 2009 **Supporting children with Specific Language Impairment and Hearing impairment: Tailor made week course in Hong Kong for Therapists, Educational Audiologists and Inspectors.** *Consulted with Hong Kong Educational Authorities: devised Cantonese speech and language assessments, created bespoke Specific Language Impairment/ Hearing Programme for Therapists, Educational Audiologists and Inspectors, created and delivered training to roll out this programme in Hong Kong.*
- Oct 2003 **GOSH/ICH project: teaching Speech and Language Therapy Students in Sri Lanka.** *One month lecturing assignment teaching specialist deafness module specially adapted for a group of student therapists studying in Sri Lanka specifically adapting assessment tools into Sinhala.*

## PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT

### CAMBRIDGE COCHLEAR IMPLANT PROGRAMME:

- 1998 *Locum Rehabilitationist/ Therapist for Implant Team. Assessment and therapy with a range of young deaf children at various stages of pre and post- implantation.*

### GREENWICH AND BEXLEY NHS TRUST:

- Aug 1991- 1998 *Specialist Therapist with Deaf People: 5 Hearing Impaired Units, pre-school & mainstream deaf children, joint speech and audiology clinic, community work.*
- Jan-April 1990 *Specialist Therapist with Deaf People- Short term, part-time contract. Determining needs of service and writing operational policies and service proposals.*

### UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL COCHLEAR IMPLANT PROGRAMME:

- June 1986- Sept 1987 *Specialist Speech and Language Therapist on UCH Adult Cochlear Implant Team. Also working with congenitally, profoundly deaf adults*

### GREENWICH HEALTH AUTHORITY:

- Jan 1994- July 1999 *Specialist Therapist with deaf children. Role of mentoring junior therapist.*
- 1984-1986 *Specialist Therapist with Deaf People. Setting up and developing a Specialist Service to pre school and school aged deaf children and deaf adults.*
- 1981-1984 *Speech Therapist: 5 years experience within Greenwich working in a variety of clinical settings including, Autistic school, Community clinic, Partially Hearing Unit and Unit for Deaf children.*

### CITY LITERARY INSTITUTE:

- 1981-1982 *Speech and Language Therapist/Tutor: Group evening class for deaf adults.*

## OTHER TEACHING/ TRAINING EXPERIENCE

### CITY UNIVERSITY:

1988- 2009	MSc/ACS- Clinical Tutor and Examiner on Speech and Language Therapy Degree course
Sept 1991 -July 1993	Part-time Lecturer/Administrator; Joint MSc Course Co-ordinator; Lecturer in courses on Hearing Loss; Clinical Tutor- 2nd & 4th year Undergraduates
1988- 1993	ACS Speech and Language Therapy with Deaf People- Course Co-ordinator: Course Development and administration
Jan- July 1990	Clinical Tutor -2nd Year Post Graduate Speech and Language Therapy Students

### UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LONDON:

May 1996- June 1996	Clinical Tutor- 2nd Year Speech and Language Therapy students
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## QUALIFICATIONS

- Certificate of Advanced Clinical Studies (ACS): Speech and Language Therapy with Deaf People RNID/NHCSS 1985
- C.A.C.D.P. BSL Stage II 1985
- Diploma in Speech Therapy L.C.S.T. School for the Study of Disorders in Human Communication 1979/81
- BA Hons: Social Anthropology University of Kent, Canterbury, 1976/79

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## TRAINING COURSES ATTENDED

- Webinar: Auditory Neuropathy Spectrum Disorder (ANSD) from Birth March 2021
- Clinical Negligence Essentials for Expert Witnesses: Bond Solon April 2020
- Masterclass in Expert Report Writing: Bond Solon May 2019
- Medico-legal Expert Witness: Bond Solon November 2013
- Training course for Speech and Language therapists- Medico-legal Expert: RCSLT October 2000
- Getting started with Grid 3: 1-day course run by SmartBox: May 2018
- Social Communication/Emotional Regulation/Transactional Support (SCERTS) 2-day training course: February 2017
- PECS Introductory 2-day course: December 2014
- Learning to Lead – Management course for Team Leaders: GOSH. December 2004
- IPR Training/ Interview Skills: GOSH. December 2002
- Management Skills, UCL. April 1987

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## RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

- **Merritt, R. & Parker, A.**, (2012 in press), Counting Petals: measuring the speech production development of children following cochlear implantation.
- **Beazley, S., Halden, J. and Frost, R.** (2012) 'Working with Deaf Children' in Kersner, M. and Wright, J. (eds) *A Speech and Language Therapy Textbook* Fulton: London
- *Informal Assessment Checklists, CSD Consultants* (March 1996) Checklists devised for assessment of all aspects of communication for a wide range of clients. Produced by CSD Consultants and available separately as an intrinsic part of Introductory Coursework for therapists working with deaf people.
- *Using the PETAL procedure: A video of Assessment. CSD Consultants* (2000)
- Cochlear Implant Research Team: Publication - **Frost R. and Carpenter L.** 1987 "Design of a Speech Production Assessment for use with deafened adults receiving single channel extra cochlear implants", in Banfai P. Edited, Proceedings of the International Cochlear Implant Symposium, Duren.
- *Auditory Training manual for Cochlear Implant Wearers*, UCH: 1987.
- *Electropalatography analysis of hearing impaired speakers-* Summary and report on EPG trial with 5 deaf speakers- Presented at First National Symposium on the Clinical Applications of Electropalatography 25th March 1988.
- "Profile of the Communication Strategies and Interactions between hearing impaired and hearing children and adults, within an integrated infant classroom". Project for Advanced Clinical Studies: Speech and Language Therapy with Deaf People 1985.