INGREDIENTS TO BE A COMPETENT SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPIST

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Outline

1. 5 ingredients to be a competent speech-language therapist

2. Curriculum of speech and hearing sciences at HKU.

3. Sharing by current student (Anson Kwan, Year 2)

4. Questions & Answers
Imagine you or your family member had a communication disorder, and needed to see a speech-language therapist ……”

What qualities would you look for?

- caring, resourceful, trustworthy,
- understanding, respect you ……”
Five key ingredients

- Strong communication skills
- Strong analytical mind
- Good listening & observation skills
- Enjoy working with people
- Be passionate (with a helping heart)
Five key ingredients

1. Strong communication skills
   • With patients, family members and other professions.
   • Build good rapport.
   • Present assessment results.
   • Teach therapeutic tasks.

Rapport equals trust plus comfort.
Neil Strauss
Five key ingredients (cont.)

2. Good listening & observation skills
   • Be sensitive to patient’s needs.
   • Be sensitive to note subtle differences.

3. Strong analytical mind
   • We work as a detective.
   • Examine, observe, get hints, set hypothesis.
   • Test your hypothesis during on-going treatment.
   • Revise your hypothesis, whenever necessary.
Five key ingredients (cont.)

4. Enjoy working with people
   • Be a good team player.
   • Patients, caretakers, teachers, medical doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, social workers, occupational therapists, etc.

5. Be passionate (with a helping heart)
   • Serves as the foundation for other ingredients.
   • Motivates you to do better.
How do we prepare our students?

Strong theoretical knowledge

- Reinforce your theoretical knowledge across years through spiral learning.

Clinical practicum

- 300 hours of direct clinical contact, working with clients with communication and swallowing disorders.
- Simulation clinic.
How do we prepare our students? (cont.)

Experiential learning

• Events (e.g., Green Voice Day, World Swallowing Day).
• Embedded in coursework.
• Visits at external organisations, clinics and schools.
• Wuhan clinic experience.
Research opportunities

• Final year research project in year 5 (Capstone).
• Research laboratories.
• University-level research fellowships (Laidlaw Undergraduate Research & Leadership Programme, University Research Fellowship Programme).
Admissions Tips

Application:
- Only consider applicants who put our programme in their Band A choices.
- Include a personal statement in the application.

At the interview:
- Show us your passion toward the programme. (Voluntary work, shadowing experiences can be an advantage but not compulsory.)
- Clear understanding about the curriculum.
Admissions scores (2021 intake)

- Best 6 subjects (English: Level 4 or above)
  
  Note: Biology NOT compulsory subject.

- All subjects are counted equally.

- Median 38 (2021 JUPAS Admissions).

- Expected Score 34.

Conversion of levels into scores:
5**=8.5, 5*=7, 5=5.5, 4=4, 3=3, 2=2, 1=1, others=0.

Source: https://admissions.hku.hk/apply/jupas
Sharing by our student

Anson Kwan
Year 2 SHS Student
QUESTIONS & ANSWERS