



NAME: MARY KATE CONNELLY
DISCIPLINE: SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

Past/current experiences working in the field of disabilities:

From April 2017-May 2018, I worked as an Individual Support Assistant (ISA) at Easterseals Midwest, St. Louis in their Autism Services department. As an ISA, I supported an adolescent with autism by monitoring his daily progress through structured goals and activities. From this experience and others, including growing up with family members with disabilities, I have learned how I enjoy helping others and supporting them in their communication goals.

Goals for your LEND training experience:

Through this experience, I hope to learn more about the programs offered to individuals with disabilities and their families. I hope to work with self-advocates and discover their wants, needs, and ideas regarding the resources and opportunities available. Together, I hope to advance their quality and quantity of services and become a leader in the community as a Speech Language Pathologist.

What you wish to contribute, in the future, as a professional/family member in the field:

In the future, I hope to advocate for teenagers and adults with autism, as well as their families, as they transition from the school systems into the workplace. I hope to continue learning and serving the community through various organizations. As an SLP, I look forward to collaborating with other healthcare providers as we advocate for and support our clients.