

## A child's whole identity

### Clare Allen

The impact of the stories I tell about myself and the stories others tell about me.

How can these stories be used to accelerate language, language learning and give child stronger thinking and perspective taking?

My identity is what makes me who I am. It tells me about myself. I remember my past, to understand my present and make choices in my future. The stories we remember about our experiences build our language learning, and are foundational in consolidating our identity and impact upon our self esteem.



In this workshop we will look at some of the theory behind autobiographical memory and its impact upon how we remember events, retain language and learn from our experiences. It will be a practical session which will look at strategies we, as professionals and parents, can use to develop a positive identity and to elaborate on our experiences to promote language learning.

*Clare has been working as a Speech and Language Therapist since 1988. She has developed a specific interest in school aged children with specialist skills with deaf children. She now works with children who use modern hearing technologies, particularly cochlear implants. Her passion is working with children and teenagers. She writes resources, runs children's and teenagers' group activity days and leads parents and professionals training events. She is lead author of an extensive programme written at The Ear Foundation called LEAPing on with Language. This aims to accelerate spoken language learning from simple sentences to the complex and socially independent language use needed between the ages of 4-11. It is now available as a free to access web site in English and has been translated into 5 different languages. .*

*Clare loves to travel and has presented at European and International CI conferences and worked globally with professionals, families and schools. She has strong research interests and has written papers on speech intelligibility and her work with LEAPing on with Language. When not working she is an everyday mum of 3 children. She believes in the impact families and professionals have for the good, and loves to encourage even small changes which will have positive effects upon a child or young person's development.*

