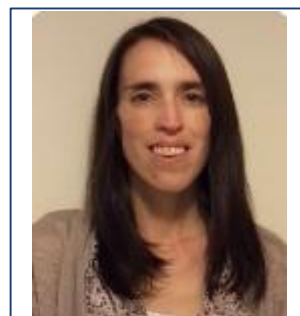




Individual Development Award (IDA) Springboard Award

Aimed at individuals employed by a health or social care organisation who are an [ARC KSS member organisation](#) to undertake activities aimed at developing research skills.

Collaborative working between SLTs and teaching staff in mainstream UK primary schools: A scoping review.



What did you achieve through this award?

My original objective had been to carry out a scoping review, which I began in March 2022. This was completed in March 2023, and has now been accepted for publication in a peer reviewed journal, *Child Language Teaching and Therapy*. Following discussion with the Applied Research Collaboration Kent, Surrey and Sussex (ARC KSS), I was encouraged to also use time during the Springboard Award to put together an application for the National Institute for Health and Social Care Pre-Doctoral Clinical and Practitioner Academic Fellowship (NIHR PCAF). I therefore focused the first 3 months of the award on clearly identifying my research focus for the NIHR PCAF application, and establishing a supervisory team. I amended the topic of my scoping review to align with what I propose to investigate within the PCAF (and future research) instead of the original scoping review topic (chosen to fit with the current service objectives). I was awarded an NIHR PCAF and started this in October 2023. This has provided me with dedicated research time, and a comprehensive training and development programme.

What has this award meant for you? What has it enabled you to do?

I had originally proposed to carry out the scoping review, and apply for the PCAF in the future. The award, and the following conversation with ARC KSS, gave me the confidence that I was at a stage in my research career when I was ready to apply for the NIHR PCAF. This encouraged me to apply (successfully) earlier than I otherwise would have. Although my initial aims widened, knowing that the award was given to carry out this scoping review (and being clear about this with managers) meant that I continued to complete the scoping review after the end of the award. Having a clear aim and direction for my research activities is crucial when combining this with daily clinical work to ensure the research does not get lost, or side-tracked by other service priorities. The Springboard Award initially gave me protected time and support, and ongoing momentum, to see a piece of independent research through from initial conception to final publication in a peer-reviewed journal. It also provided the ability to access relevant training to support this.



Individual Development Award (IDA) Springboard Award

Aimed at individuals employed by a health or social care organisation who are an [ARC KSS member organisation](#) to undertake activities aimed at developing research skills.

Collaborative working between Speech Language Therapists (SLTs) and teaching staff in mainstream UK primary schools: A scoping review.



What's next?

I am currently on an NIHR PCAF, which provides protected time, training and supervision to develop my skills as a researcher. I have identified a small research team, consisting of parents and teaching staff, and together we are carrying out activities this year to identify priorities for research in the field of collaborative working in mainstream primary schools. During 2025, I will be putting together an application for doctoral study to carry out this research.

What is your experience of receiving mentorship as part of this award?

I have really appreciated the support of my mentor throughout the award. She has supported me to find appropriate clinical supervisors for my scoping review and NIHR PCAF. She also supported me with my application, and it has been valuable to have someone outside my field to feed back on when the clinical information I am writing needs clarifying, and to provide overall guidance on writing style. My mentor also provided support for practical elements of the research (such as reference management systems, scoping review methodology questions). It has been very encouraging to have a mentor who is an experienced researcher, but is also approachable and I have felt comfortable asking all my questions.