



CROTCHED MOUNTAIN SCHOOL

Meet Julia Lynch CCC-SLP, ATP Crotched Mountain School



What do you enjoy most about your job at Crotched Mountain?

This is my dream job, a true capstone on my career. This is the only place I know of where we can patiently lay the foundation step-by-step for our students to successfully use computer-based systems. This enables our students to communicate, read, write and access all aspects of the curriculum - creating an improved educational and living environment for all.

What I enjoy the most about Crotched Mountain School is the opportunity to build on the skills that our students developed in their early years and to clearly understand the student's ability to effectively use assistive technology for communication, reading and writing. This is a unique environment. Every single one of the students who I have followed through this process has demonstrated the ability to use low or high-tech systems to learn and interact successfully.

How does your work in Assistive Technology and Augmentative Communication benefit students?

Bottom line - I want independence for my students! I want them to understand that communications systems customized to their specific needs can be a powerful tool for them.

For example, some students have limited motor movement development, including some with cerebral palsy. With the use of their devices - and eye gaze technology - they can make decisions, not only for school work but also to control environmental changes such as raising and lowering blinds and lights, and adjusting the temperature.

What are you most proud of?

I am exceptionally proud of the work that I have done to help staff, students and their families effectively manage central auditory processing disorders. I am also very proud to be part of a pilot program in one of our classrooms enabling high school students to use their communication devices and eye gaze technology to access a Smart Board. This will allow students with multiple disabilities to not only access the curriculum, but also interact and be engaged with each other in the classroom. We hope that new technology will prepare students, staff and families for the technological changes that will allow them to have greater control over their lives.

I also feel very gratified when I can sit with a student, customize a device to their needs and see them find success and confidence in their work. This is an emotional job and seeing our students able to communicate with ease is truly amazing and inspiring. It can change their lives!

What makes Crotched Mountain special?

So many things! First and foremost, as staff we get the time to devote and work directly with each of our students to develop assistive technology solutions that work best for them. We also put into practice working with a student's full team, including staff, therapists, residential counselors and their families. An important part of my job is to keep up and stay ahead of the new technology - mostly with Augmentative Communication - read and summarize articles for staff, disseminate the research and make training presentations to help educate all staff. Crotched Mountain is most definitely a special place!

Certifications & Licenses

Certificate of Clinical Competency-CCC-SLP from American Speech Hearing Association, Certified Assistive Technology Provider-ATP from Rehab Engineers North America.

Education

Master of Arts degree in communication disorders from the University of Maine-Orono.

Specialty Areas

- Central Auditory Processing Disorder and Classroom Accommodations
- Augmentative Communication
- Literacy and Augmentative Communication
- Assistive Technology to Access the Curriculum
- Assistive Technology for Reading and Writing
- Assistive Technology in the Classroom for students with multiple disabilities and with autism

Experience

22 years working in field. Most recently worked at ATECH as Speech-Language Pathologist and Assistive Technology Provider prior to joining the team at Crotched Mountain in Greenfield in 2012.

Contact us to learn how our services can help children to learn and thrive.



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