

Contacts

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12 August 1976

My educational background consists of 8 years of studies on Logopaedics, rehabilitation sciences, educator and management. I am a qualified Italian speech therapist, and I complemented my technical skill set with management techniques. Presently, I feature 25 years of working experience as Speech Therapist in 0-18 years old patients, 14 years of which serving as coordinator of the rehabilitation therapists (leading a team up to 16 people including speech therapists, physiotherapists, neuro and psychomotor therapists of the evolutionary age and professional educators).

Relocated to the Netherlands in 2022 for family reasons. Achieved Dutch language proficiency and obtained recognition of my Speech and Language Therapy qualification in the Netherlands in January 2025. Registered with the Dutch Association of Speech and Language Therapists (NVLF) and the Paramedics Quality Register (Kwaliteitsregister Paramedici – KP). Holder of AGB codes, the Dutch healthcare identification system required for professional recognition, healthcare administration, and reimbursement by health insurance providers.

I am a specialist on autism and heavy mental delay, and rehabilitation approaches based on AAC, Floor time, TEACCH, videomodeling, oral motor therapy and basal stimulation. Overall, I met for diagnosis and/or treatment purposes about 300 autistic patients, 30 patients affected by cerebral palsy, 40 rare syndromes and blindness, 250 specific learning disorders and 200 language disorders. Beyond rehab sessions, I provided counseling for parent training and school integration.

Driven by personal interest, I carried out research, teaching and training. I conceived and triggered in collaboration with the Pisa Autism association, the Pisa National research centre and the University of Pisa a project to offer dental care to patients (4-25 years old) with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) developing a web application called MyDentist. In 2021, I have been collaborating with Pisa Municipality and the Pisa Museum network to make accessible a recreational centre and three main museums to children affected by ASD by means of a communication strategy based on AAC.

Appointed in December 2022 by the Italian speech therapists' national board, as expert for the review of guidelines and recommendations for psycho-social interventions, diagnosis and treatment in children and adolescents affected by autism spectrum disorder.

EDUCATION

2015 - 2017

Masters's Degree in Rehabilitation Sciences of Health Professions, University of Pisa

Grade: 110 (scale 60-110).

2007 - 2008

Master in Management for Coordination Functions in the Rehabilitation Area, University of Pisa

Qualification achieved: Rehabilitation Coordinator.

2004

Bachelor's Degree in Speech Therapy, University of Pisa (belonging to the class of degrees in rehabilitation health professions (SNT/2). Grade: 110 cum laude (scale 60-110).

1995-1999

Bachelor's Degree in Speech Therapy, University of Pisa.

Grade: 110 cum laude (scale 60-110).

WORK EXPERIENCE

In Nederland



Prima Logopedie: my own company! March 2023-Present

Independent professional counselor providing guidance and support to children and adolescents (ages 0–18), as well as their families, within my private practice. I work as a therapeutic guide and coach, helping families manage challenges related to cognitive functioning, communication, behavior, and school performance. My work focuses on children with neurodevelopmental disorders such as autism spectrum disorder (ASD), ADHD, cerebral palsy, rare genetic syndromes, learning disabilities, and language disorders. I provide individualized intervention, parent coaching, and practical strategies to support each child's development, participation, and family well-being.

Since January 2025, I have also been working as a Speech and Language Therapist (SLT) in the Netherlands, specializing in the assessment and treatment of multilingual children from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds, including families from Germany, Nepal, India, Japan, the Czech Republic, South Africa, Italy, and many other countries. I work with children presenting with neurodevelopmental disorders, speech and language delays, and communication difficulties, delivering culturally responsive, evidence-based intervention tailored to each child's linguistic profile and developmental needs.

Milestones Behavioral Techniques (International) – Subcontractor (February 2024 – Present)

Providing support to children with autism in communication and language development, educational support, and learning processes, under a collaboration agreement, <https://www.milestonesbehavioraltechniques.com>

De Astronaut, Leiden (NL) Speech therapist / Learning Support Assistant (January 2026- July 2026)

- Provided one-to-one support to a child in group 5 (primary education).
- Supported the student's learning and academic development.
- Implemented educational and behavioural support strategies tailored to the child's needs.
- Collaborated closely with teachers and the family to promote inclusion, independence, and active participation in the school environment.

Eerste Leidse Schoolvereniging, Leiden (NL) – External Support (February 2025 – April 2025)

Offered practical support and advice to teachers to help integrate a child with severe language delay and behavioral challenges into the classroom setting.

Teddy Kids B.V. / Theodore International Startup Academy – Tutoring Services (August 2023 – June 2024)

Provided one-on-one academic support to a child with autism and special needs, following a customized educational plan to promote school integration.

Youth Act (Jeugdwet) Agreement – Private Tutor & Support (November 2023 – June 2024)

Delivered tutoring services under a care contract for a child with autism and special needs, focusing on agreed-upon topics and schedules to support inclusion and development.

In Italy



Livorno Hospital

Speech Therapist & Coordinator, Functional Rehabilitation – Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (2019 – August 2022)

Coordinated a multidisciplinary team of 16 health professionals (speech therapists, physiotherapists, developmental therapists, and special educators).

Responsible for staff training, performance evaluations, communication, quality management, data protection, and goal achievement.

Conducted assessments and speech therapy for children with complex neurodevelopmental disorders.

Pisa Hospital

Speech Therapist – Child and Adolescent Mental Health Unit (2001 – 2019)

Conducted assessment and rehabilitation of children with autism, cerebral palsy, rare syndromes, learning disabilities, and language disorders.

Coordinator – Functional Rehabilitation for Child and Adolescent Mental Health (2008 – 2019)

Managed a multidisciplinary team and oversaw quality improvement, staff coordination, and collaboration with educational institutions.

Stella Maris Foundation (IRCCS), Pisa – Speech Therapist (2001 – 2003)

Worked in the Rehabilitation Department providing speech therapy and evaluation for children with complex developmental and neurological disorders.

Educator at the Stella Maris Foundation (IRCCS), Rehabilitation Calambrone, Pisa (1999-2000).

Research Project H-Form financed by the Minister of Labour and the European Community

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ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

University of Pisa and University of Siena (2005 – Present)

Supervised six theses on topics such as Moebius syndrome, ASD & AAC with video modeling, software development for money management in ASD patients, telerehabilitation for language disorders, learning disorder screening, and psychoeducational programs for children with multiple disabilities.

Delivered seven academic courses (36 hours total) in the fields of Speech Therapy and Digital Humanities.

Conducted over 23 professional lectures for hospital staff, psychologists, therapists, educators, preschool and primary school teachers.

Main topics: Autism Spectrum Disorder, severe intellectual disability, school integration, AAC strategies, rare syndromes, psychoeducational methods, and assessment tools for cognitive and communicative skills.

TRAINING

In Nederland



2022-2023

Voluntary Internship by an International Speech and Language Therapy **Leiden with Tineke Van Driel (senior Dutch speech therapist)** from October 2022 to March 2023. The program is meant for cultural and professional exchange between Italian and Dutch speech therapists.

The outline of the program was:

1. Presentation of theoretical and practical language rehabilitation approach in The Netherlands and in Italy,
2. Methodological comparison and analysis
3. Equipment and tools comparison
4. Visiting clinics managed by Speech Therapy Leiden BV involved into screening, tests, diagnostics, standardized speech and language assessments and clinical sessions. Comparison, analysis and discussion with international and Dutch colleagues.
5. Attending to clinical briefing.

2022-2023

Voluntary activities as support and guide for children at **Leimundo School (Dutch school in Leiden)** during the "overblijf " (lunch pause) and I have also cooperated with the teacher of the group 3 since April 2023 until the end of the school.

In Sweden



2013

Training course on Parent Training on communication and communication support in Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) "AKKtiv Komlgang" at the **DART Institute in Göteborg, Sweden** (<https://www.sahlgrenska.se/omraden/omrade-1/neurologi-psykiatri-habilitering/enheter/dart/>)

2012

Project "Mobility & Health" Habilitering of Goteborg-Alingsas. The training objectives and contents of the internship were: Check of the organizational model (Service Network) in response to the rehabilitation needs of the developmental age, to compare it with the Italian one. Compare the Swedish and Italian models of taking care of the disabled child and the family. Analyze their evaluation / diagnostic paths with the settings and tools that are used. To observe in the field the rehabilitation techniques used in the rehabilitation treatment of the disabilities treated in their centre (cerebral palsy, intellectual disability, autism, rare syndromes). Understand the procedure for prescribing aids and having read high-tech tools including those for alternative augmentative communication. Check the methods through which social, health and school integration is carried out in the global care of the disabled child within the Swedish care network. Certificate of participation, Euro-mobility Tools. n° LLP-LDV-PLM-11-EN-291 N. LLP Links 2011-1-EN1-LE002-01642 /. Lifelong Learning Programme - LLP, Alingsas, Sweden. "Leonardo Da Vinci" Sectoral Programme.

In Italy



2007 - 2011

Certificate of qualification in "Basal Stimulation" according to the Method of Professor Andreas Frohlich, Course Lecturer T. Wysocka. Acquired skills: Basal Rehabilitation for children with severe disabilities (2007 level I - 2009 and 2011 level II).

In England



2006

Internship at the Treehouse School in London. Acquisition of the principles of the ABA method (Applied Behaviour Analysis) and the British sign language "Makaton". Observation of 40 children in the school and drafting of rehabilitation projects.

LONG LIFE LEARNING

The Continuing Medical Education (ECM) system is the tool to guarantee continuous training aimed at improving clinical, technical and managerial skills and abilities and to support the behaviour of health professionals, with the aim of ensuring effectiveness, appropriateness, safety and efficiency in the assistance provided by the National Health Service in favour of citizens. The ECM program (<https://application.cogeaps.it/login>) provides for the allocation of a specific number of training credits for each medical specialist area and for all health professions. ECM credits are indicators of the amount of training / learning carried out by health professionals. ECM Accreditation consists in assigning a certain number of ECM training credits per event attended. Registration with the professional association (FLI, Italian Logopedic Federation) details the obligation to acquire ECM. I accrued all the ECM credits foreseen. (n. credits are 150 for each three-year period).

PROJECTS AND RESEARCH

Original research activity presented in 10 oral communications and 11 posters at national and international conferences and congresses.

2022

Europeen Pediatric Physiotherapy Congress - Firenze. Poster: Basal Stimulation: a tool for healthcare and school inclusion F.Adele G.Valvo V.Semucci

2005-2020

INSAR 2020 Annual meeting at the Washington State Convention Centre, Seattle. Poster: Controlling anxiety using dental care training via ICT, F. Pardossi, M. Biondoli, L. Billeci, C. Buzzi, M. Buzzi, M. Pinzino, V. Semucci, C. Senette, F. Uscidda, B. Vagelli, S. Pelagatti, M.R. Giuca, A. Narzisi.

2017 - on-going

"MYDENTIST". Multidisciplinary project involving ASL NO, Azienda Ospedaliera Pisana, Università di Pisa, CNR. As an expert Speech Therapist in AAC, supervision of the researcher and the strategies inherent to the project to enable the dental approach to children with autism spectrum disorders.

2015

Winner of the "Buone Idee" (Good Ideas) Competition (First prize out of 37 proposals) for the presentation of innovative ideas and good practices, new technological approaches and introduction of new technologies organized by at the Functional Rehabilitation of Childhood-Adolescence Mental Health Unit of the hospital of Pisa, with the project entitled: CRA CRA/BLA BLA (realization of a multimedia tool for children with language disorder).

Rationale: Parent training as a complement to direct speech therapy treatment.

Purpose: Reduction of waiting times, active involvement of parents in the rehabilitation process, gratification of parents, reduction of time for direct speech therapy treatment for the structure.

Outcome: Cost reduction accompanied by a more effective rehabilitation process.

Working group composed by G.Menchetti, M.R Vella, S. Volterrani, R. Rafanelli, V. Semucci.

This approach has proved to be successful during the COVID-19 escalation in Italy.

PUBLICATIONS

AAC BOOKS FOR CHILDREN 3-6 YEARS OLD (Semucci conceptualization, management and translation in AAC; Carpenzano graphics)

2019

V. Semucci, E. Carpenzano, "Gatto e topo in società", Homeless Book Editions, CAA Necklaces. Book presentation during the International Book Day at the Salone di Torino.

2018

V. Semucci, E. Carpenzano, "Il brutto anatroccolo in CAA", Homeless Book Editions, CAANecklaces.

PAPER ON PEER REVIEWED JOURNALS

2020

A. Narzisi, M. Bondioli, F. Pardossi, L. Billeci, M. Claudia Buzzi, M. Buzzi, M. Pinzino, C. Senette, **V. Semucci**, A. Tonacci, F. Uscidda, B. Vagelli, M. R. Giuca, S. Pelagatti. "Mom Let's Go to the Dentist!" Preliminary Feasibility of a Tailored Dental Intervention for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder in the Italian Public Health Service, Brain Sciences, MDPI. <https://doi.org/10.3390/brainsci10070444>

2018

S. Caria, F. Paternò, C. Santoro, **V. Semucci**. "The design of web games for helping young high/functioning autistic in learning how to manage money", Mobile Networks and application Magazine, Springer US. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11036-018-1069-0>

REFERENCES

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Head of Childhood-Adolescence Mental Health Unit of the hospital of Livorno.

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Speech therapist Leiden

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Professor at Computer Science Department at the University of Pisa. President of Autism association of Pisa.

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Specialist Speech Language Pathologist at Sahlgrenska University Hospital.

Languages

Italian: Native speaker

English: Fluent level

Dutch: B2 plus