

What might you do in a typical day at work?

My role as a Paediatric Nurse involves many different aspects, with the most important concepts being care, compassion and patience. In my day-to-day role I have to expect the unexpected in a fast paced environment, assessing children with an variety of emergency situations and treating them thusly. Differentiating between normal and abnormal physical findings, to allow myself and my team to provide the best course of action. All while analysing individual situations to anticipate pathophysiological problems and detect changes physical and mental wellbeing of my patients and their families.

Regularly I have to judge an advocate role for many of these patients, especially those who cannot speak for themselves! I am a support system for parents who may be experiencing the worst day of their lives, no matter what they may throw my way. Usually on the best days, I have the opportunities to treat children and send them home recovering or healthier than when they came into the department.

Name: Rosie Lawrence

Year of leaving: 2011

Current job title: Paediatric A&E Nurse



What do you enjoy most about your job?

I enjoy working closely with children, young adults and their families, it's pretty amazing that I get paid to do what I do. It's fulfilling, challenging, and fun. My job makes me a better human being. I have the privilege to directly affect someone's life in a very real way, every shift. The intimate moments shared in the hospital with mums, dads, grandparents, and siblings, that I have been a part of will stay with me forever. I love working as part of a Multi Disciplinary Team (MDT), and working within my team. I know no matter what comes through our doors we will always pull together and strive for the best care we can provide.

What do you find most challenging about your job?

The most challenging part of my job is that I also have to do things to kids that terrify them. I have to poke them with needles to draw blood or put in IVs. I have to hold them down to force medicine into their mouths and use scary, loud equipment to suction boogers from their little noses. Sometimes I have to do all of these things while wearing weird masks or a scary suit to protect against the spread of infections from sick children. It isn't surprising when the younger children dislike me, when I have to do things they don't like. However, getting a smile when they feel better or get to go home makes it worth it.

What experience and qualifications do you need to do your job, and do you have advice for current students looking to go into our sector?

The qualifications I needed were strong core GCSE results, an Access to Higher Education in Health and Human Sciences, and the most important; an undergraduate degree in Children's Nursing (BSc with Honours). The best advice I could possibly give to anyone thinking of joining Paediatrics or Nursing is do not give up. There will be days when you will go home and have a cry over the things you've had to experience, but smiles and thank yous make everything worth it. I cannot explain the satisfaction gained from pure gratitude of patients, families, friends and your own co workers.