

Beth Garza

The Role of a School nurse

The role of a school nurse is vital for so many reasons. Children that are in school from various ages are prone to accidents. If schools did not have school nurses, then it would be up to the teachers (unlicensed staff) from the school to evaluate the children in accidental incidences. Staff members that are untrained or unexperienced in healthcare would not be able to adequately evaluate children in these situations. This article suggests that this would lead to more frequent visits to emergency rooms for children. This would also lead to more parents missing work while they take the children to the emergency room. Not all accidents will need an emergency visit, but a registered nurse would be able to make those hard decisions.

The article mentions the lack of resources of some of the students and their families. This is especially vital for those students that have chronic disorders and illnesses. The school nurse will play a key role in the health maintenance. The article includes an example of this as the maintenance of students with diabetes mellitus. If there were no school nurses, there would be more instances of diabetes issues in children. The school nurse checks on the children with illnesses like this frequently and teaches the children how to maintain the illness themselves when they are ready. The nurse will teach the students signs and symptoms for the students to look out for. The school nurse will also have insulin on hand along with the appropriate snacks to manage hypoglycemic events.

School nurses also keep records of all the students enrolled in the school to make sure that they are up to date with their immunizations. This is extremely helpful to parents as the immunization schedule is hard to keep up with especially for parents with multiple children to keep track of shot records. What also helps parents that the article talked about was the presence of a “safe place” for students. The school nurse is always available for students and has a lot of experience in healing the mind, body, and soul. Without the presence of school nurses there would be greater instances of uncertainty and great injury in our schools.