

School Nurse Experience Reflection Questions

1. How has your view of the student population changed?

My view on the student population really hasn't changed since this was technically my first clinical working and observing a nurse care for children. I do love to see all the little kids because it just melts my heart how adorable they are. It does make me wonder if I can be strong enough for these sick little kids, I do feel it truly takes a special kind of person to care for children.

2. How has your view of the school nurse role changed?

After my experience being with a school nurse my view has drastically changed. As Mrs. Ballinger explained it takes a prudent nurse to understand any situation that could be thrown her way to properly assess an age range of children from 4-12 to determine whether how severe the situation is and what would need to be done. This means that it takes an experienced nurse with a background of pediatrics to be able to delegate tasks.

3. What surprised you about the school nurse experience?

What truly surprised me was my observation about the mother not wanting her son to take his ADHD medications on an empty stomach which I explain in the next question. I felt that maybe being a school nurse you wouldn't have to deal with situations like that, but it seems no matter what profession or specialty you are in you will deal with it and learn how to assess and solve the problem in a professional manner.

4. What did you observe during your time there?

During my clinical as a school nurse, I observed more than I expected I would see. Right in the morning about 4-5 children came through to take their ADHD medication for the day. As the school bell rang for the start of class about 10 minutes later a mother came in to discuss the wants of her child who is to take one ADHD medication in the morning. She began to raise her voice at Mrs. Ballinger that she does not want her son to take the medication on an empty stomach because he has stomach issues when he does. This was a conflict as Mrs. Ballinger stated that it is not her responsibility to provide the child food to take the medication as free breakfast is served in the morning, but since the mother consistently drops off her child late, he never eats, and she does not feed him breakfast before school which then becomes a problem. In the world of pediatrics, I have heard how it can sometimes be difficult to deal with children's parents, and I feel this was a perfect example. I was able to observe Mrs. Ballinger assisting kids for simple issues such as safety pinning shorts because they were too big on a child, letting a kid change his pants because he had an accident, and splinting a girl's finger because she jammed it. Finally, I was able to observe Mrs. Ballinger check two people off to earn their BLS certification.

5. How was your experience different from what you expected?

As Mrs. Ballinger stated, “many people have controversial opinions about what a school nurse actually does”, and I fell into that stereotype, but after learning everything Mrs. Ballinger does for her school, I see it was more than what I had expected. She completes the required paperwork needed to keep her medical records up to standard just as it is required in a hospital setting. Not only does Mrs. Ballinger assist children in their health and medical needs, but it seems she cares for their whole well-being. I also learned that she needs to complete a health screening for the entire school each school year which includes obtaining a height, weight, hearing/eye exam and discuss any abnormalities to parents.

6. What are some of the needs/issues related to the health of the school age children that you may not have been aware of?

It seems the main issue related to health in the school age children that I observed was the need of ADHD medications. However, after learning about adverse childhood experiences and watching the TED talk video that Mrs. White showed us, who’s to say that these children truly are ADHD or have just experienced negative experiences up to this point causing a lack to their attention span.

7. Please list two developmental stages related to the population that you observed.

One developmental stage related to the population I observed was preschool age children. The other developmental stage that I observed was the school age children.