

School Nurse Experience Reflection Questions

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

Being one of the students that spent a lot of time in the nurse's office growing up, specifically because I didn't want to be in class, I went into this really not knowing what to expect. I was amazed when I got to see students coming in on their own accord to check their blood sugars and administer insulin to themselves. There were also multiple other students who came in at certain scheduled times as well to administer medication to themselves. I just thought it was a really incredible thing to see middle school aged kids knowing how to take care of themselves in such a serious way.

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

Absolutely! I had no idea the different things I'd see during my time. Not only that, but just how the nurse interacted with everyone at the school, I just found it to be really reassuring.

3. What surprised you about the school nurse experience?

I think I was a little surprised by the amount of paperwork the nurse had to do. I guess I just never realized that they would have to do paperwork and chart everything that happened throughout the day, just like any other nurse out there.

4. What did you observe during your time there?

Shortly after getting there, we actually had a teacher come in that was 21 weeks pregnant and she was doubled over in pain. She was experiencing a shooting pain in her right upper and lower quadrants. The nurse and I had to wheel her out of the school in a wheelchair so that her husband could come get her and take her to the hospital.

There were numerous kids that came in to check their blood sugars and their insulin levels. They even had a refrigerator in the nurse's office that was full of foods for certain students and they would just come in to grab their certain snack or meal and leave.

The school I got to go to actually had more than one nurse, but the other nurse was strictly for the special education kiddos and as a sibling of someone who has a disability, I thought that was really awesome that they had a nurse specifically dedicated to them and their specific needs.

I also got to personally help a teacher that came in to get their new blood sugar monitor set-up. They came in clueless on where to even start with the device and I was able to get it all connected to their phone for them, as well as teach them how to properly use it and how to properly take their blood sugar.

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

My experience was much more hands on and involved than I expected it to be. The nurse I got to follow was great and she was eager to teach me as much as she could! I

guess ultimately, what I remembered of school nursing was what I knew from being a grade school kid and visiting the school nurse myself. Getting to actually go a spend time with a school nurse like this though really shed some light on what they actually do and I really enjoyed it!

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?

I wasn't aware of how many young kids are diabetics and have to regularly monitor and dose themselves. Of course, I knew there would be a feel that had something medically going on, but I really couldn't have even imaged what I would get to see! The school nurse was so involved with each kid that came in or even just with each of her kids that she knows have a medical problem. I just thought that was really incredible the way she has the opportunity to teach these kids how to care for themselves at such a young, impressionable age.

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

Industry vs. Inferiority – one kiddo came in with a tib fib fracture, so they had a cast that covered their whole leg. The came in needing to use the wheelchair accessible bathroom, but forgot their crutches at home. So, they were going to go into the bathroom and try to get themselves to the toilet without the assistance of crutches. They pretty quickly realized they wouldn't be able to do it and the seemed a bit let down by it.

Identity vs. Role Confusion – some students came in with each other, even though only one student needed help or even two would come in together and both would need help for a different thing than the other student. They were very involved in their friendships/relationships and it was clear a lot was revolving around that.