

School Nurse Experience Reflection Questions

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

I was pretty surprised that the young kids knew about certain topics, like weed. They were talking about their 7th grade sibling getting ISS for smoking weed in the bathroom at school. That was pretty shocking to me. On a positive note, I was pretty impressed how some of the diabetic kids handled their diagnosis and treatments. One kid had an omni pod and did a really great job of monitoring their blood sugar levels and getting the right insulin amount. That kid was pretty young but did a really great job with their insulin.

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

It's like a mini clinic, except you have to keep up with the same patients every day. You get to see how these kids grow and mature, especially when it comes to the medications they have to take.

3. What surprised you about the school nurse experience?

We had one kid come into the nurse's office today who was dizzy and having a little trouble walking. Turns out, this kid had started a new medication a couple of days ago and it was hitting them a little harder than anticipated by the primary physician. We had the kid drink some water and take a 30 minute nap while we monitored their blood pressure. The short nap helped the kid out and their blood pressure came back up to a better level. I was super nervous that this kid was going to get sick or pass out, but the school nurse I was paired with did such a great job of being calm and knowing exactly what to do. I also noticed that school nursing has a lot to do with open communication with the parents of the kids. Especially when a kid starts a new med!

4. What did you observe during your time there?

I observed some insulin administrations, ADHD medication administrations, monitoring temperatures, checking blood pressure, helping a pre-k kid get a new change of clothes (potty accident), one bump on the head from P.E., and a few upset stomachs.

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

I wasn't really sure what to expect when I first got there. I guess I thought it would be more about calling parents to tell them their kid was sick. It was interesting to me how much medication the school nurse actually did administer, but it makes sense because these kids have daily meds they need to take.

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?

School nursing isn't just "uh-oh, you're sick, time to go home." It's making sure that the kids ate breakfast (especially for the diabetic kids before insulin administration), making sure the kids have a clean clothes to change into if they have an accident, and making sure the kids take their meds (especially because the kids forget!).

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

The first developmental stage that I observed today was Kohlberg's theory of moral development, Good Boy-Nice Girl. One 5th grader came in talking about their sister smoking weed at school, and the sister was asking them not to tell mom because she told mom she only got one day of ISS, but she actually got like four. The nurse was gently reminding this kid in a nonjudgmental way that smoking weed at school is not ok. I was impressed with the way the nurse handled the situation.

I feel like I also observed some cooperative/team play with the kids in PE as we were walking around the school to give some kids their meds that were due. The kids in PE were playing some game with balls and they looked like they had to work together to win.