

School Nurse Experience Reflection Questions

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

It's been a while since I've been a middle schooler, but I know as a student, you really don't realize what all goes on in the nurse's office. As a middle schooler, I never knew students regularly went to the nurse in order to take scheduled medications. I knew some students had medications to take however, I never knew how in control they really were over the situation. It's reassuring to see students in control of their own health. Remembering not only when to take their medication, but also remembering what their medication is supposed to look like. Even knowing to question the medication if it doesn't look right.

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

Growing up, I was the kid that spent most of her time in the nurse's office. Not necessarily because anything was wrong with me, I just liked going there to get away from everything going on in class. From what I remembered however; things are just a bit different. My nurse growing up allowed us to come in and take naps if we needed to and or gave us medicine if necessary. Now a days, the nurse I followed, said they aren't even able to give over the counter medications unless it was supplied from home by the parents. They instead have to call someone to bring a child something if they need it, even if it's just for something as simple as a headache.

3. What surprised you about the school nurse experience?

I guess what surprised me the most was what all the nurse can be required to do on a day-to-day basis. My nurse, for instance, had to go to the school district's office to interview a candidate for a new school nurse position. Causing my time spent observing her student to nurse interactions to be cut in half.

4. What did you observe during your time there?

I only got to observe a small portion of student interactions. The majority of my time was spent sitting in on a school nurse interview with my nurse and a principal. Although, not something I expected to be doing, I found it to be very informative. The nurse being interviewed happened to have an extensive critical care background, but had never been a school nurse. So, I got to learn all about what that intel's from my nurse's perspective as she described it to the nurse being interviewed.

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

As I mentioned previously, much of my time was spent away from the school, which was far from what I expected. However, it gave me a different perspective and even some insight on how administration interacts with their nurses.

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?

With the small amount of medication my nurse passed to students during my time there, the majority of it involved ADHD medication. However, my nurse did fill me in on how she has had several students in the past suddenly become diagnosed with Leukemia after some time with her. She mentioned how one student in particular came in with bruises and although it immediately alarmed her, she didn't think it was due to any disease. After making a call home and having the child go for a check-up at the doctor's office, they found that she had Leukemia and it was all found due to the nurse's observation.

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

Erikson's Psychosocial Theory: Identity versus Role Confusion

Piaget's Theory of Cognitive Development: Formal Operational Thought