

## School Nurse Experience Reflection Questions

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

While some students are experiencing pain or need something from the nurse, I think I was reminded of the way a child's brain works today. Sometimes they just want to get out of class or hope to get a treat if they go to the nurse's office so they might make up a complaint so they can get a pass and go to the nurse. On the other hand, I was also reminded of how broad and vast the issues are that the student population deals with. From, asthma, to cerebral palsy, to ADHD, students have a lot of needs and it requires a community to make sure all these needs are met.

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

I have always had a general idea of what a school nurse does, but it wasn't until today that I fully understood the depth of how much they do. After following my nurse at Hardwick Elementary School, I have even more respect for school nurses.

3. What surprised you about the school nurse experience?

I was surprised about the amount of charting they do, and the amount of consents they have to obtain for the medication they are giving, I was also surprised to see my nurse do a set of vital signs on some of the kids that came into the office.

4. What did you observe during your time there?

During my time at Hardwick Elementary School, I observed kids using their inhalers, receive their ADHD medication and medication for headaches. I also observed and helped a kid who had a fall and landed on the back of his head. Upon an initial assessment, he appeared to be fine, however when my nurse went to check on him again, he was crying and complaining of a headache. We took him back to the nurse's office, and he mentioned that he was starting to become sleepy. My nurse asked me to get a manual blood pressure on him and perform vital signs as she called for extra help. His parents were called and advised to take him to urgent care, but they were out of town, and at this point, this kid could barely keep his eyes open, so my nurse called 911. We kept him awake until EMS arrived and they transported him to Covenant Children's Hospital.

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

I didn't realize that school nurses gave out prescribed medications and charted in a similar manner as bedside nurses. I expected to give out typical medications for kid complaints like headaches, sore throats, tired, etc....

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?

While I know that there are school age kids with ADHD, I have just always assumed that they receive their medications at home. I didn't know the nurse would hand out those medications.

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

I observed a kid in the initiative versus guilt stage (Erikson's Psychosocial Theory). He was full of energy and so excited to start learning. I also observed a school aged kid in the industry versus inferiority (Erikson's Psychosocial Theory). When he came to the office to use his inhaler, he became frustrated when he couldn't remember how to put together his spacer for his inhaler.