

A Career In Childcare - Nursery Nurse

What is a Nursery Nurse?

A nursery nurse provides care and education for children from birth to eight years old. They care for their physical needs as well as organising play activities that will stimulate and promote a child's learning and development. Nursery nurses work in private day nurseries, nursery schools, children's centres, hospitals, pre-schools, and in private homes. A qualified nursery nurse must be at least 18 years old, be physically fit and must undergo health checks and hold an enhanced certificate of disclosure issued by the Criminal Records Bureau.

What does a Nursery Nurse do?

A nursery nurse's main responsibility with babies would be their physical care, feeding, changing, bathing and dressing. Alongside this they would be expected to sterilise and make up bottles and keep all equipment clean and tidy. The health and well being of the children is paramount and strictest hygiene must be observed.

For the toddlers, a nursery nurse would plan and implement activities to ensure each individual child's development is met. The children would learn through play, experimenting with a variety of materials such as water, paint, clay, dough, mud and construction toys. Nursery nurses are trained to feed and stimulate a child's imagination by encouraging them to role-play, dress up, cook, sing, dance, outdoor play, and use simple imaginative computer games. They must also be responsible for monitoring, evaluating and reporting on the activities and progress of the children, to ensure that they are reaching their full potential.

Nursery nurses need good communication skills as they work very closely with doctors, health visitors, speech therapists, social workers and child psychologists as well as parents and carers.



Qualities, Skills & Abilities

- To enjoy playing a key role in babies and young children's lives;
- To be patient, energetic and enthusiastic;
- To be caring and understanding;
- To be friendly and cheerful;
- To be prepared to get dirty and messy;
- To be willing to work hard;
- To be able to listen and observe;
- To be able to play;
- To have an imagination;
- To have good communication skills;
- To have lots of energy;
- To be able to act with tact and diplomacy;
- To be aware of health and safety issues involved in the care and support of children; and
- To be able to build good working relationships.

How Do I Become A Nursery Nurse?

There are several routes to qualifying as a Nursery Nurse, most colleges would expect students to have gained some experience with children, work experience, guides, brownies, beavers or babysitting for friends or younger brothers or sisters. Those employed as Nursery Assistants will naturally progress onto becoming a Nursery Nurse.

Mature students may be accepted onto courses without the necessary formal qualifications, but their personal skills and experience and other related qualifications would be taken into consideration.

**If you require any further information, please telephone
0800 731 1518 or visit www.childcarelink.gov.uk/oldham
or www.oldham.gov.uk/childcare**

