



Orthoptic Support Workforce Case Study

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Why did you choose orthoptics? At the time of applying for the job of Orthoptic Support Worker I didn't really know an awful lot about that care sector. My background had always been working with the public and in different caring capacities and I knew that I wanted to continue with this. The role works brilliantly around my family commitment and enables me to give my best professionally.

Define your role in 3 words? Rewarding.
Challenging. Flexible.

What is a typical day like in your current role? My typical day when screening in a school starts with arriving at the school at the agreed time and following the schools signing in procedures correctly. I check that the area I have been given is adequate for screening ensuring there is enough space and good lighting. I create name labels for each of the children and give these to the staff member helping me. I screen each child following vision screening policies either using LogMar or Kay Pictures. Following the session, I input all of the results, referring those that have not passed through the right pathway, urgent and routine.

I have a caseload of schools that I am required to screen every academic year. I contact the schools to make bookings ensuring I have given enough notice for the school and myself. Prior to attending a school, I contact the school office and ask for a class list with the children in the year groups details on. I look through each child ensuring that all information we have is correct including addresses, DOBS etc. I make sure schools have sent out the opt out form to all parents/carers and record the date that it was sent ensuring that parents / carers have been given seven days to opt out if they wish.



“*The role works brilliantly around my family commitment and enables me to give my best professionally.*”

What is the best part of your role? The best part of my role is the flexibility that it offers meaning that I can work around the schools' needs ensuring I am there at the best time for them, so screening is not rushed. The flexibility is also brilliant for my personal and professional life.

I have recently been facilitating clinics that children are referred into after failing vision screening and it has been lovely to see and be a part of their journey. Seeing the whole process has also given me a confidence boost within my role.

What skills do you find essential for your job? An essential skill for this job is communication as you must speak with office staff, school support staff, teachers and most of all the children. If you can't communicate well with these people, then the job will become quite hard. Another skill is patience and that is with the children but also with the schools as they are also under immense pressure.

What do you look forward to in your career? I look forward to developing my skills which I have already been doing as part of an upskilling project I am involved in. I am looking to broaden my skills and opportunities. I am looking forward to the time in my life when I can commit more and not be so reliant on term time only work, as I feel this would be of benefit to me and the service.



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