



NURSERY NURSE/ NURSERY ASSISTANT

About nurseries

Good nurseries are professional child care establishments with a clear understanding of their role and responsibilities, good leadership, and a well-developed fully-documented set of procedures and processes for dealing with every aspect of managing the day-to-day activity. They are regulated by Ofsted – the government agency responsible for standards in schools.

As a nursery nurse or nursery assistant, you will be expected to follow these processes and be aware at all times of the importance of maintaining standards.

Overview of the job

As a nursery nurse or assistant your main duties will involve helping children with their learning, playing and social development. This is done by encouraging and supporting children in all activities, helping them to build relationships with other children and staff (including yourself), and creating a lively, enjoyable and fulfilling learning environment.

You could be responsible for feeding, washing and cleaning younger children. The activities you will be involved in will vary from nursery to nursery, depending on their facilities, curriculum and the ages of children they care for. For example some nurseries take very young babies and so the balance of your role may involve more supervising, feeding, changing. By contrast working with toddlers will require a greater involvement in active playing and reading.

As a nursery nurse or assistant you will be involved in keeping records of the children's activities during the day, and planning and preparing activities using the learning resources and materials available.

Person Specification

To be a professional nursery nurse or nursery assistant you should be able to demonstrate a number of key attributes and skills, including:

- A good understanding of the principles of child care and learning
- Enjoy working in a child-centred environment
- Ability and willingness to follow procedures set out in the nursery and by law
- Suitable experience and qualifications (see below)
- Effective two-way communication skills
- A team player able to establish effective working relationships with co-workers
- Comfortable interacting with people for all communities
- Able to work on own initiative if required to do so

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- Flexible and adaptable – able to respond quickly to constantly changing demands and needs
- Committed and reliable – people will depend on you to be there
- Ability to cope under pressure
- Good organisational and planning skills

Qualifications

Experience counts for a great deal. Our nursery assistants have at least 12 months experience within a nursery. Our nursery nurses will have a NVQ level 3 in Child Care or a similar qualification of the same or higher level.

Other qualifications which may help, include Basic First Aid, POCA training and Food Hygiene.

You will be expected to produce 2 professional references as a minimum, from an employer, suitably qualified colleague or your last educational establishment. You will be required to undertake and enhanced (1 year) CRB check.