A Day in the Life of a Nursery Plus Senior Practitioner

The role of a Nursery Plus Practitioner is unique to Devon. I am based in a school nursery but my job means I visit other settings to support a variety of children with additional needs. This means every day is different, although the pattern of the week can be the same for a term at a time. Some days I have further to travel than other days and I need to ensure I have prepared for visiting two different settings and meeting the needs of very different children.

When I’m out and about I work in very different settings: pack away preschools, private nurseries and maintained school nurseries. I feel privileged that I get to meet so many different practitioners and children. This can also be a challenge as there is a wide variety of teaching styles and methods to assimilate. I have a lot of responsibility to observe and plan appropriately for the children in my caseload but I am not alone in this as I work closely with the setting and have the support from my Nursery Plus Teacher and other colleagues.

Once a week the Nursery Plus team meet to discuss current cases and share ideas to help plan for and meet the needs of individuals. If I need to discuss a case in between there are opportunities to meet up at the base setting at lunchtimes usually, or by telephone, so I am never unsupported. I love the flexibility of my job and I am always enthusiastic to work with the children in my caseload. Watching the progress made over the weekly visits is very rewarding and this is clearly recorded in our records which shows that our service is really making a difference.

Time management is important to be able to complete a visit and the paperwork in the allocated session but if more time is needed for report writing then this is negotiated with the Nursery Plus teacher and setting to make best use of a child’s session.

A typical day might look like:

- 8.55 am arrive at base setting to collect resources and files for the day
- 9.15/9.30 am arrive at first setting. Greet staff and receive update information since last visit. Possibly have a prearranged meeting with a parent. Spend rest of morning with child in a variety of different ways: observing, general play, 1:1, small group work. I might be helping a child who has difficulty interacting with others. He or she will need lots of good practice modelling social behaviours and being supported to do this. I am able to support staff to develop good practice and strategies to achieve positive outcomes for all their children.
- 11.30 am write up case notes and have a discussion with the Key Person about the next steps for the following week
- 12.00 am lunch time wherever suitable, collect resources, make phone calls, touch base with colleagues
- 12.45/1.00 pm arrive at second setting. As this is a new child, I need to meet with the Key Person to assess his/her developmental levels. I do a short observation of the child during a free flow session before beginning to make a relationship with him/her. This can take a few visits to build up but is vital to be able to plan effective targets in conjunction with the Key Person.
- 2.45 pm write up notes and return to base to return resources and files and update the online computer records as necessary.
- Sometimes I am invited to meetings or to meet other professionals working with a child. In some cases, I have been instrumental in setting these up. I might need to alter my timetable to be able to accommodate these.

There are opportunities to meet up with other Nursery Plus practitioners across Devon and I always feel a sense of pride that I am part of such a unique, interesting and rewarding venture.

There is also a real commitment to professional development and ensuring we are able to do our job effectively with the appropriate training and support.