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Mr. Speice

Independent Study Mentorship

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Inside the Life of an LVN

Assessment 6- Interview

Name of Professional: Tina Miller

Title: Licensed Vocational Triage Nurse

Company: Pediatric Health Care Associates

Date of Interview: 10/9/18

MLA Citation:

Acquatella, Camille, and Tina Miller. "Inside the Life of an LVN." 9 October 2018.

Assessment:

My first interview was at Pediatric Health Care associates in McKinney with Tina Miller, the Pediatric Triage nurse in the facility. Interviewing with Mrs. Miller bestowed a new perspective upon me of Pediatrics and what it entail; throughout our interview, she was able to answer all of my questions and went in depth about each of them. The goal of this first interview was to get to know the field of Pediatrics better and get the opportunity to speak to someone who experiences it daily. I hoped that with this interview I could get a glimpse of the specific duties a Pediatric nurse does daily and what a typical day looks like for them as well.

I learned that as an LVN (Licensed Vocational Nurse) one only needed to receive an education of one year as opposed to several years for a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner license,

which is my career of interest. It was surprising to me that one only needed one year of training to begin a career they love which is also a very appealing aspect of becoming an LVN. I also learned about the daily job duties of a triage LVN; when patients come in, they must take their vitals, the patient's history, and assess their health issues at the time that they must then report to the doctor or Pediatrician in this case. The only downside found was that LVNs cannot prescribe medicine, while they may be able to make over the counter medicine references for minor illnesses over the phone, when a patient comes into the office, they must leave the prescribing to the doctor. Nevertheless, it was very beneficial to speak to Mrs. Miller on more procedures performed by LVNs such as injections, drawing blood, and often times interpreting lab results. After asking Mrs. Miller about the psychiatric related pediatric cases she has seen, it was amusing to know that many children come into the office with psychological distress from bullying. It is evident that bullying has become the main cause of early-onset anxiety and childhood depression, therefore, this may be a huge area of concern that could be used as a topic for my original work.

After going over the main interview questions with Mrs. Miller about the basics of an LVN's duties and purpose, I asked her what she believes the best qualities a Pediatric Nurse must possess to be successful in the career. She said the two most important qualities a nurse must have are compassion and empathy; in Pediatrics it is important to keep in mind that one is not only treating the child patient, but also the parents. Being able to empathize with the position parents are put in when their child is ill is very important; keeping the parents informed about the diagnosis as well as helping calm them down is vital to the overall treatment of the patient. Having patience is another necessary quality to have in Pediatrics; children may not be able to

verbalize their symptoms or how they are feeling well, so making sure one remains patient and attentive to the signs and symptoms they present is critical. Overall, my interview with Mrs. Miller was enjoyable and informative; being able to finally speak with a professional made me realize that Pediatrics is a true passion of mine. Seeing the passion she has for working with kids and medicine was inspiring and hopefully in my next interview, I can find a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner who specializes in Psychology to gain a better perspective on their duties as well.

Interview Notes:

- LVN license- takes one year of education
- Can give injections and draw blood
- Cannot prescribe medicine, can give recommendations over the phone
- Psychiatric cases seen have mostly come from mental distress after bullying
- Worked at Herman Memorial Hospital before working at Pediatric Health Care Associate
- Compassion and empathy with patients AND parents is important
- Studied Industrial Medicine
- Started working in the field because she loves kids
- Job duties
 - Triage patients
 - Document symptoms, take history
 - Take vitals
 - Inform doctor