



Business Placement Case Study and Evaluation 49

Dee from Bawtry Mayflower Primary School visited the foundation department at North Ridge Special School on a business placement in March 2009.

North Ridge Special School is a school for children, aged 3 - 19, with severe learning difficulties

Job Study - Learning Support Assistant?

What does your Job Role involve?

My job involves playing with the children, maintaining food and hygiene standards and supporting teachers

What key skills are required for your role?

I use literacy, numeracy and ICT and it is necessary to be very organised when assisting children's learning and planning. I need to be flexible as I work with others and apply problem solving skills by discussing problems calmly and approach matters patiently. I have developed my own performance by gaining a NVQ Level 2

What qualifications, training and/or experience did you need to enter your job?

To enter this job role I needed to be familiar with school practice, procedures and careers.

What extra qualifications/training have you gained in your current role?

While working with my current employer, I have undertaken training courses in tube feeding, child protection, first aid and manual handling.

There is also the opportunity to progress to a higher level teaching assistant, gain a higher level NVQ and transfer schools.

What are the working conditions of your job?

I work 35 hours per week from 9am to 3.30pm (both indoors and outdoors). It is a health and safety requirement that I attend courses and keep my knowledge and skills updated.

What advice would you give to young people interested in entering this field?

I would advise anyone considering working in this field of work to gain experience through a trial placement. The job itself is very rewarding.

Evaluation of the Business Placement

What did you do on the placement?

I work shadowed a member of the learning support staff at a special school.

What knowledge about the organisation, its sector and its market place did you gain?

I gained first-hand experience of a new, purpose built school specially designed to cater for children with complex needs. I witnessed the extremely sensitive, caring and helpful staff and how teaching styles were adapted to cater for special needs children.

Do you feel that the placement was a success? Please give reasons

I spent 2 days at the school and thought the placement was a success as it gave me an in-depth insight into how special education functions. The NALD Careers Consultant there was extremely helpful as he explained his role within the system and gave pointers on how to become part of the special needs sector.

Could you suggest any improvements to the management of the business placement?

No, I was very happy with the experience.

Be whatever you want to be