



Catherine Page

Advanced Practitioner
Orthoptist

What does your job entail?

I test children's eyes, specialising in children with special educational needs. I assess them in their school, so I travel around a lot. We assess their vision, coordination of the eyes and how the brain processes and responds to their vision. It involves talking with other health professionals, parents and teachers about how to optimise the child's visual abilities and what difficulties they may have

How did you get into this line of work?

I did work experience with an Orthoptist when I was at school, and it looked really interesting.

Outline your career to date

I have worked in a busy hospital in England where I assessed children and also helped rehabilitate adults who had lost their vision or were assessing and treating adults who had strokes which affected how the eyes worked together. I worked my way up and became deputy head, having management responsibilities and taking students. When I moved to Northern Ireland, I changed into a more specialised role working only with children with special needs. I have also had the opportunity to go to Asia and work there for a short time teaching Orthoptics.

Tell us about your qualifications and training

I did a Bachelor's of Science degree at Liverpool University and then recently completed my Masters in advancing practice at Ulster University.

What do you like best about your job?

I love the variety and how every day is different. Working with children with special needs is so fulfilling, and I love being able to work alongside other professionals as part of a larger multidisciplinary team.

What advice would you give to anyone thinking of doing your job?

If you love working with people, have an interest in the medical profession, are good in a team and enjoy variety; then Orthoptics is a great profession for you. There is lots of scope to progress in your career and also to learn different skills and specialise in different areas.