



Ellen Bailie

**Occupational
Therapist**

Introduce yourself. Where do you work? What is your job role?

Hello, my name is Ellen Bailie and I am an Occupational Therapist in special schools in the Belfast Trust. I am currently based in Glenveagh School working with children and adolescents with severe learning disability. Hello, my name is Ellen Bailie and I am an Occupational Therapist in special schools in the Belfast Trust. I am currently based in Glenveagh School working with children and adolescents with severe learning disability.

What does your job entail?

The role of an OT in special schools is to help children with learning disabilities access their school environment. This can be through the provision of different equipment including wheelchairs, class chairs, slings, or splints. We also facilitate different interventions within the school environment including sensory groups to help children self-regulate so they can participate in school activities and self-care groups to help develop children's ability to complete self-care tasks. We also provide some equipment for home to aid independence and to help the caring role of parents and carers.

How did you get into this line of work?

When I was in school, I came across OT within one of the university prospectuses. I then researched into OT, and I found it interesting and felt like it suited my personality.

Outline your career to date

I have been an OT for four years. I have worked in a variety of different settings. I have worked in Adult Learning Disability, Reablement (community rehabilitation), Mater Hospital (acute), the Cancer Centre in BCH and in special schools.

Tell us about your qualifications and training

To get into OT, I achieved two A*s and a B an A-level. I have a First-Class Honours degree in Occupational Therapy and a distinction in the MSc Professional Development in Occupational Therapy Masters. I am due to commence the Sensory Integration Master's module in 2023.

What qualities are required for your job – personal and professional?

Good communication skills, flexible, organised, caring.

What is the best advice you have ever received?

“Either you run the day, or the day runs you”

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I enjoy going to the gym, running, and going out for walks.

Tell us an interesting fact about yourself

I have been on the news on American TV.

Who has inspired you most in your life?

I wouldn't say I would have one person in my life who has inspired me. I have a very hard-working family and use their achievements and success to motivate mine.

What advice would you give your 16-year-old self?

Work as hard as you can, and you will get where you need to be.