



**Michelle  
O'Hagan**

**Occupational  
Therapist**

Paediatrics

**Can you give us a brief work history?**

I started my career as an OT in 2013 when I accepted a Band 5 rotational post. This included experience in paediatrics, adult acute and inpatient rehab settings, and community domiciliary teams. I currently work in the Children's Occupational Therapy Core Service and have been working in this team for just over three years.

**What made you decide to be an OT?**

I always knew I wanted a job within the health service and was able to complete work experience within an OT department as a year 13 student. I loved the variety of work and the amount of patient contact that I observed during the work experience.

**Tell us about your qualifications and training**

I completed a three-year degree in University of Ulster, Jordanstown.

**What does a typical day involve?**

My work day is a mixture of virtual and face to face contact with children, their parents/guardians, educators and other involved staff. The initial point of contact is a telephone call with a child's parent/guardian to gather background information on developmental history, current level of function and areas of concerns. A child would usually progress to a face-to-face appointment to complete assessment on identified areas of difficulty. This could include assessment of fine and gross motor skills, handwriting, perceptual skills, self-care skills and sensory processing. Depending on the outcome of the assessment you may decide to complete further observation/assessment, link in with other involved professionals, provide home and school advice or signpost onto another more relevant service.

**What do you like best about your job?**

I like that I can observe and complete some assessments within the school setting. It is rewarding to identify a goal that is important for the child and their family and helping them work towards it.

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

I definitely encourage students/newly qualified staff to try experience as many different areas as possible. Skills learnt in all different settings are very transferrable.