



**Rebekah  
McNeilly**

**Paediatric  
Occupational Therapist**

Core OT/Clinics

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

I have been a Children's OT for six years now, however I qualified 10 years ago. I struggled to find a post to suit me with my family life so initially I worked in a day centre for adults with learning disabilities, then moved into Children's Services where I worked as a Transition Officer, Therapy Assistant and then finally got the perfect post for me in Paediatric OT.

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

I always had a passion for working with people with special needs, and as a teenager I volunteered at Camphill Mourne Grange and loved it. When it was time to fill out my UCAS form in school I told the careers teacher I didn't know what I wanted to be but I wanted to help people with special needs. He suggested Occupational Therapy and the rest is history!

**How did you train for this role/educational route?**

I completed my A-Levels in order to meet the entrance requirements for the OT course in University of Ulster, then spent the next three years in Jordanstown completing the BSc degree.

**What does a typical day involve?**

As is the case with most things in life at the minute, a typical day is not quite what it used to be as I work remotely a lot, however I would initially check my emails for any new correspondence/referrals, look at my diary and plan for the day ahead and complete any outstanding admin tasks. After break time I usually have some client interaction either through face to face visits at clinic/school or virtually via phone consultation/zoom. Face to face visits involve meeting with the children, their parents/guardians, education staff i.e., teachers, classroom assistants and SENCo for a period of assessment or intervention as appropriate. After lunch I would typically have more face to face/virtual interaction then finish the afternoon with follow up paperwork and emails/phone calls. Some days there is more face to face involvement than others, some days are purely admin, and no two days are the same!

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

I love the interaction with the children, helping people in general and just problem solving where possible to make life easier for people.

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

Get a flavour for as many different aspects of OT as you can initially via rotation etc because the profession is so varied and can be so different from one team to another.