



Andrew Gault

Staff Nurse
Children's Community
Nursing team

What does your job entail?

Providing nursing care and support to children and families in the community to enable them to be cared for in their own home. This includes children who have acute, chronic, and complex health care needs.

How did you get into this line of work?

My son was born prematurely and spent a week in the Neonatal Unit in Antrim Hospital. The nurses who were looking after my son and the other children in the unit inspired me to change my career and do something more worthwhile and meaningful, so I left my job and went to university to study children's nursing.

Outline your career to date

I did a biology degree and then a master's degree. For three years I worked in various laboratories as a laboratory technician. Later I worked as a Technical Support Specialist for seven years in a pharmaceutical laboratory before leaving this job to go to university to study children's nursing. After I qualified as a children's nurse, I worked in the Children's Ward in Antrim Area Hospital before moving to my current post in the Community Children's Nursing team.

Tell us about your qualifications and training

I have a BSc Hons Biology degree, a MSc Ecological Management and Conservation Biology degree, and now a BSc Children's Nursing degree.

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

Good communication skills and empathy are essential. Good organisational skills and being able to prioritise your workload are also very important.

What is the best advice you have ever received?

Always try your best. If you try, you might fail, but you might succeed. If you don't try, you are guaranteed to fail, and you will always regret never trying.

Tell us an interesting fact about yourself

I have a collection of 16 guitars.

Who has inspired you most in your life?

My grandfather. He taught me the importance of working hard, taking responsibility and also of having a little mischief along the way.

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

Know what you want in life, and work hard to get there. It might take time to figure out what that is but don't do anything for the sake of doing it or because you are striving to please other people. Take responsibility for your own life, for your successes and failures and you will gain self-respect and the respect of your peers.