

National Apprenticeship Week 2021

Allied Health Professions Apprenticeship Pathway



1. What is your name?

Lynette Evans

2. Where do you work?

I work for the NHS at University Hospitals Dorset, based at Poole Hospital. I work in Children's Therapy Services as a Children's Therapy Assistant, which I have been doing for nearly 12 years.

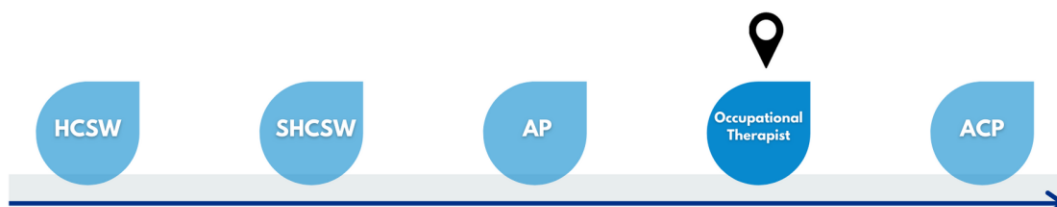
3. Which apprenticeship are you doing and what does the study involve?

I am studying BSC (Hons) Applied Occupational Therapy Apprenticeship through the University of West of England (UWE), which is a 4-year course. At the moment it involves 2 days a week of virtual learning, where I have a combination of live and pre-recorded lectures that I access through the university systems. We have met regularly together in small learning pods since starting the course in September 2020. As the other apprentices on the course are all spread over the south/south west, our learning pods are organised by locality. As an apprentice I am allocated a work-based assessor and mentor, and I also have an academic tutor from the university. Our study during the first year involves the fundamentals of human anatomy & physiology and Occupational Health and Well-being. There is an Anatomy & Physiology exam in the first year and then lots of essays, presentations and assignments throughout the 4 years.

We will complete 3 placements over the duration of the course, a 9-week placement in year 2, a 10-week placement in year 3 and an 11-week placement in year 4. I have never studied an apprenticeship before but there is so much support from my work colleagues and the university.

4. What does your job role involve?

Working as a Children's Therapy Assistant involves seeing children for blocks of intervention to work on a wide range of skills that they may find challenging, or be delayed in, depending on their diagnosis. The list of areas I work on can include jumping, hopping, balance, core strength, upper & lower limb strength, stretches, dressing skills, cutlery skills, handwriting skills, visual perception skills, and the list goes on. I will use play, games and activities that are age or developmental level appropriate as a way of engaging children.



As an assistant I also order equipment the children need, and complete equipment checks in the community when needed. I also assist on poolside with our hydrotherapy clinic and help with admin specific to our team.

4. Why did you want to do an apprenticeship?

Over the 12 years working as an assistant completing occupational therapy and physiotherapy programmes with children, I have always had an extra passion for occupational therapy. I love supporting children and their families with activities that they find challenging, being able to give ideas and work through difficulties with families and help them is a great part of my job. To be able to complete the apprenticeship to become a qualified Occupational Therapist would mean I can continue to do this with more knowledge and experience of the world of occupational therapy. When you see a child or adult progress with an activity that they have not been able to do or found really difficult, it makes me feel proud to have made a difference to their life.

5. What do you want to do once you qualify?

I want to work as an Occupational Therapist and I would love to continue working for the NHS. I have spent the 12 years of my Therapy Assistant career working in Paediatrics, so it feels like a natural progression to continue working with children. However, I am open to the idea that once I have completed placements in different areas I may decide that I want to work in another area of healthcare. I am excited for the opportunities and experience this apprenticeship will bring me.

