

TRANSCRIPT: School nurse

Jill Head

The children here have learning disabilities. Some have physical disabilities and many of them have specific medical needs.

I work very closely within a team. There are physios here and occupational therapists and we all work together to support the child to give them the best outcomes.

I do a lot of training to support staff to do the tasks that the children need. Some of the children here are fed through a tube, so that takes specialised training so that the staff can manage that.

Many of the children have seizures and, although they're on medication regularly, some of them are not well controlled just because of their condition and staff need to be trained to support the child when they have a seizure and then they would call me in to help with that.

Because I'm here full-time in school, that means that if a child has a seizure, for instance, I could have them to lie down in my medical room and observe them until they've recovered, rather than having to call a parent to take them home. Some of our children have quite frequent seizures and all they really need is a sleep afterwards and someone to keep an eye on them.

Another important part of my role is to observe and reassess children because I know them well so I can observe small changes, which may mean that they need a change in medication, for instance. This is almost like an early warning system because I can pick up children early and alert the paediatrician and maybe prevent children going into hospital, and all this allows them to spend the maximum time in school.