

Jobs for Everyone Jobholder Guidance for School Visits

As part of the Jobs for Everyone Project schools are encouraged to arrange jobholder visits from people working in NHS or Social Care roles. This may be parents/carers or other contacts from the school community.

The project is aimed at Reception and Key Stage 1 children which means, you have an audience of 4–7-year-olds to entertain and engage. The duration of the visit will be determined by the school, but it often works well with up to 30 minutes or a bit longer where you are able to include lots of props or interactive activities. Jobholders may choose to attend individually or in pairs. You may visit a single class of up to 30 children and repeat this for schools with multiple classes. Sometimes schools prefer to combine multiple classes within the same session so you could be speaking to 60 or 90 children together.

You should include an opportunity for the children to ask questions. This can be difficult for this age group and the teachers will help keep the children on track with relevant questions. There is also a module in the Jobs for Everyone resource pack for the children to learn about asking questions and prepare some ahead of the jobholder visits.

Here are a few tips to help make your visit a success...

What to include:

- Introduce your job role/speciality and what this is
- Make it relatable – when might they or a family member have come across your role?
- Where do you go to work e.g. hospital, people's houses, a care home, office?
- Who do you work with? Types of patients or other job roles?
- What sort of things do you do all day?
- What's the best thing about your job?
- Why are you a good fit for your job – what do you like, or are good at that makes you suited to your role?
- Why did you choose this job?
- How does learning at school help you work towards this role e.g. is reading, writing, maths or science particularly relevant?
- Anyone can work towards this role if they want to – e.g. people from all backgrounds, men or women (dispel any stereotypical views of your career).
- If a key health message sits readily within your presentation, you could add this in too.

How to make it fun and engaging for this age group:

- Think about the needs of your audience. This subject will probably be new to them and needs to be presented at the right level.
- Use age appropriate language and don't be too detailed, keep it simple.
- Get active – even if your role doesn't offer obvious opportunities for this you can still get them to stand up, clap, chant and sing. Even a simple show of hands can help regenerate interest during a session.
- Use humour – find age appropriate and clever ways to incorporate humour to gain attention and interest without going off topic.
- If using slides make them colourful, animate them if you can, use few or no words.
- Use visuals such as pictures, cartoons or even video clips. Puppets and stories also work well with this age group.
- Music also works well – is there a song that is relevant to your role? You can find suitable videos online for the children to dance along to.
- Use props – what do you use in your daily role? Is there anything you can demonstrate? Show them your uniform if you have one.
- Can you incorporate an activity that the children can participate in?
- Be engaging – think about the pitch and tone of your voice and use hand gestures. Show enthusiasm and passion for what you do.
- Project yourself as a role model. Someone they might want to become.
- Keep each activity short and snappy and make each activity different from the last.

General tips

- Don't worry about being too factually accurate. Facts matter less than giving a sense of your job and why you love it
- Less can be more. Pupils of this age have short attention spans
- Pitch and pace are everything

You are attending the visit as an ambassador for your profession and the NHS & Social Care sector. We hope you find the experience rewarding.

