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# Jessica Turner

**Jessica Turner is a Radiology Support Worker.**

I work across all areas of Radiology, so each day is different. In each area I undertake a multitude of clinical and administrational tasks such as; booking scans and procedures on the system, liaising with wards to organise inpatient scans, cleaning and setting up for each procedure, helping patients to fill out safety questionnaires, taking and recording patients heights and weights, data inputting such as radiation doses or medication used, chaperoning, preparing patients for scans and getting them changed, confirming patient identification, and generally supporting the Radiographers and Sonographers in any way that I can.

The biggest part of my role is reassuring and helping patients during their scans, as many children can be quite nervous and/or upset. I use many ways to gage their attention, whether that be distracting babies/toddlers with toys and sensory lights, playing games with children, chatting about school and various topics to take their mind off things or rewarding them with bravery certificates if they sit still. Taking the time to build a rapport with each individual patient is crucial as it supports the Radiographer/Sonographer to get the best images possible and helps to eliminate distress in the patient. Without an extra pair of hands to support, examinations that require children to be still can be extremely challenging.

This role allows me to learn new things every day and gives me the fundamental skills and experience needed to pursue various different careers in the NHS. I have always been a caring person and enjoy looking after people, particularly children. I wanted a job where I would be able to do this, but also be able to progress, develop and learn whilst working on the job.

I have only been in my role for 8 months so have not yet had any additional training – aside from the mandatory training when starting my role. However, my managers are keen for me to start a Radiography apprenticeship. This apprenticeship is not usually offered in Paediatrics, so it has been a struggle to figure out the logistics of running this apprenticeship in our department, but we are working together to get the ball rolling! Although I have not had any official training, all of the Radiographers are always teaching me and explaining each examination.

I am proud of the difference I have made in my department in such a short space of time. I feel that I have a very positive impact on my team and boost moral significantly when times are very challenging due to us being so short staffed. I also made personalised bravery certificates for various examinations across the department that work as a wonderful tool to encourage the children, which are now used daily.

I would say that it is a fantastic role that is a start to a career that could branch off in so many different directions. It is a very rewarding job, knowing that I am making a difference to the children that I see daily, gives me great job satisfaction.