

Name _____

A Day in the Life of a Registered Nurse

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The educational path to becoming a Registered Nurse involves completing a nursing program, which can be either an associate's degree in nursing (ADN) or a bachelor's degree in nursing (BSN). After completing the program, aspiring nurses must pass the NCLEX-RN exam to obtain their nursing license. Continuing education is also important to stay updated with new medical knowledge and skills.
2. Critical thinking skills are crucial for an RN in various situations, such as when a patient's condition suddenly worsens, and the nurse needs to make quick decisions on the best course of action. For example, if a patient starts experiencing difficulty breathing, the nurse must assess the situation, prioritize interventions, and potentially notify the healthcare team for immediate assistance.
3. In a clinic setting, a typical interaction with a patient and their family might involve welcoming them, collecting their medical history and current symptoms, and conducting initial assessments like measuring vital signs. The nurse would also explain the purpose of the visit and answer any questions the patient or family may have. It's essential to create a comfortable and informative environment to ensure the patient's needs are met.
4. If nurses didn't document patient care accurately, it could lead to serious consequences. Inaccurate documentation could result in miscommunication among healthcare providers, which may affect the quality of care. It could also lead to medication errors, incorrect treatment decisions, and legal issues. Accurate documentation is essential for tracking a patient's progress, ensuring patient safety, and maintaining a clear record of their medical history.

