

Lorraine Jackson
Learning Disability Nurse
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My name is Lorraine Jackson and I am a Learning Disability Nurse. I qualified in 2004 at Glasgow Caledonian University. I am very fortunate to have a career I love and balance this with being a Wife, Mum and Daughter.

I am currently the Nurse Manager at the Scottish Epilepsy Centre (SEC), an independent hospital for the assessment and treatment of patients with complex epilepsy. I started off my career within NHS services, working within disability rehabilitation and then within learning disability services before moving into the independent sector.

An admission to hospital can be daunting and frightening. You don't know what to expect, or you base it on previous experience which may not have been all positive. If you have a learning disability, this is no different and in fact may be more overwhelming and stress provoking for the person themselves and their family/carers. At the SEC, I manage a team of Nurses and Healthcare Assistants and we strive to ensure that a patient's experience of our service is the best it can be. This will include a pre-visit to the hospital, working closely with families/ carers/ other professionals and utilising hospital passports/ care plans to ensure that person centred care is delivered to a very high standard. Facilities within the hospital include a carer sleepover room, enhanced bedrooms with large wet room facilities and tracking hoists. I am very proud to be involved in leading a facility where we can offer this type of care and be inclusive for all.

On leaving school I worked with children in a residential special needs school. I absolutely loved the experience and got to know the children and their families really well. When I applied to train as a Nurse I was drawn to learning disability nursing partly due to my previous experience and I felt that I could make a difference to people's lives in more ways than I could in other branches of nursing. I especially liked working with people across different age groups and I am able to do that as a Learning Disability Nurse. Quality of life is really important to me and learning disability nursing focuses on improving the quality of life for people that face many, many challenges. I am proud (and very grateful for the opportunities I have had) of my career to date and hope to continue to make a difference to the lives of people with learning disabilities and their families/ carers.