

7th March, 1984.

Mr. Stan Holder,
Director of Nurse Education,
School of Nursing,
St. Mary's Hospital,
Praed Street,
London W.2.

Dear Stan,

re: Paediatric experience for six of
Bedford College's Nursing Studies students

I am grateful to you for being willing to consider six of our undergraduate students for their Paediatric experience. As you know, the B.Sc. course in Nursing Studies at Bedford College is being phased out and therefore this experience is restricted to a one-time exercise only.

The time-tabled experience is to be 2½ days per week, Wednesday afternoons, all day Thursday and Friday. The dates are October 1984 to ~~mid-December~~ 1984. If it could be arranged, it would benefit students to spend varying periods working on both surgical and medical wards but, given the time restriction of the course, it probably would be more advantageous for students to be attached to two wards only at the most.

The aim of the course should be to provide the students with an introduction to Child Development as well as the care of sick children in hospital - so that ultimately students are able to understand and therefore to discuss basic issues in the nursing care of sick children.

There is no way we can expect specialist competency of students, given time and availability of placement constraints. However, I expect undergraduate nursing students to, at least at a theoretical level, comprehend the complexities involved in the nursing of sick children coupled with a certain amount of competence in relation to the actual physical handling of a young child.

The half day is meant for classroom work, that is to the underpinning of so-called theory to that which is likely to take place during the two days' practice, and it would require your teaching staff's involvement. I would be pleased if perhaps one, if not too, multiple-choice exams were set, as well as responsibility taken for a project of choice.

I have a health visitor on my staff who does some work with the students on Child Development.

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Please contact me again for any further information you might require. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Marion Ferguson,
Director of Nursing Studies