

Personal Statement

As a little girl, I grew up wanting to be a veterinarian. I always had a passion for animals, especially dogs. Then, I found out about rectal exams on dogs, which crushed my soul, making me turn away from wanting to pursue a veterinarian track. As I grew older and started working with people and getting to know society, I wanted to pursue a healthcare job. No matter what I wanted to do, I knew I wanted to help people. I wish I could say that a revelation in my early teen years made me want to be a physician, but it was a gradual adjustment in my brain.

As I got into my older teen years, my family started signing me up to babysit for family friends. At first, I was scared to babysit kids. I wondered what would happen if something went wrong. Would I be at fault? After babysitting twice, I got over that fear and instead worked with the kids on having a fun night away from their parents. I would distract them by playing games like hide and seek or tag around the house. After quite a few times babysitting multiple families, I finally had an idea of what I wanted to pursue. I want to pursue pediatrics. I figured I love being around kids and hearing their crazy comments and ideas. Kids are the most innocent yet loving and understanding age group. As we age, we start having biases and developing attitudes, but kids have only a small amount of that and way more room to get accustomed to people and create relationships with anyone no matter age, race, or gender. I love that about kids.

After working with kids, I wanted to use my Nursing Assistant certification and decided to work at an Assisted Living Facility. I didn't know what to fully expect going into this job. I then started to learn very quickly that kids and elders are alike in many ways. I loved building connections with the elders at my work, hearing old stories they remember, hearing the music they used to love and would sing their hearts out and dance like they don't care. This is exactly what childhood is like. No care in the world for people around you and just living in the moment. I loved this part of my job. Being able to witness the residents have a good time, forget about their pain or the situation they are in and just let loose. Although I loved my elders and all the relationships I formed,

the hard part was having to let go of that when their days got worse. With kids, we have way more time to have fun. Whereas with elders, the days are short and there is no telling how much longer is left of their story. Working alongside the elders and building connections with them was the most rewarding thing about my time there.

Knowing that geriatrics wasn't for me I am still wanting to work in pediatrics. I love being around kids the most and hearing the most outrageous things their minds can think about. I want to be able to help them and their family through sickness and health. I want to not only be a physician, but a friend. I love building personal connections and being able to offer support in any way I can. To me, someone who can be your friend but also help you in life is the best type of friend. I want to get to know my pediatric patients and learn how to suit their needs in any way possible. My end goal is to be a private practice pediatric physician. I know that this requires me to be on a long journey, but I believe that I have the determination to acquire whatever I have my heart set on. Knowing that I can change the life of a child with my knowledge makes me want to work even harder to accomplish my dreams.