

Addison Z. — Pediatrician

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Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District

As a small child I enjoyed playing with my “baby dolls”. Most girls like to dress them and pretend to feed them, but I liked to care for them as if I were their pediatrician. I modified a crib into an incubator for a premature baby and used empty plastic pop bottles as IV bags by connecting the bottles to the babies’ arms with yarn I had cut and taped into place. I used my stethoscope to listen to their hearts and gave them shots with a pretend syringe. Ever since I was that little girl playing with my “baby dolls” I knew I wanted to work with kids. As I got older and started to look at jobs that helped kids, I decided on working in the medical field. Around 3rd grade I read an article about what pediatricians do and decided I wanted to be a pediatrician. By the time I reached Middle School I had researched and read more books and articles about what a pediatrician’s job entails. The articles and books described a pediatrician as a practitioner that specializes in children and their diseases. They help diagnose and cure diseases in infants and small children. This information helped me understand that this is what I want to become so I could help children and families through tough decisions.

I do not have younger siblings, but I do have younger cousins. The best part about seeing them is the joy and smiles they bring. Working with kids isn’t about the money it’s about the joy, laughter and each child’s personality. Being a pediatrician means I would work with each child’s personality and joyful spirit, to provide a service and a helpful hand to a parent in need, and also a community.

Pediatricians work in places like hospitals, clinics, and even as a pediatric army medic that travels to countries in need. The college requirements are 7-11 years based on how many AP classes you took for college credits. To become a Pediatrician you need a high school diploma, a 4 year bachelor’s degree from a medical school, and to specialize in pediatrics. That would require another 3 to 7 years of college including residencies and internships. All Pediatric workers must have a medical license. To obtain a medical license, pediatricians must have completed a three year residency following medical school and take the United States Medical License Examination (USMLE).

It takes a lot of college and hard work to become a pediatrician, but I am ready. I know to help my young patients I will need a great deal of experience with listening to the patient’s symptoms and asking the right questions to form a plan for healing. Being a pediatrician means I need to have strong people skills to communicate with families about their child and communicate with fellow doctors and nurses who can assist me in finding the best treatment for my patients.