



Children's personal escort

Description

A children's personal escort provides individual support to children with disabilities i.e., children who need additional assistance with learning and daily operation due to certain developmental difficulties. A children's personal escort is engaged at school and community activities, depending on the individual needs of a child and defined individual plan of services which usually include provision of assistance with walking, maintenance of personal hygiene, taking food, communication with others, assistance with using transport, provision of support during the educational process (formal education and educational activities in a community) and keeping records and informing others about the progress and achievement of a child. This job requires responding to emergency situations or worsening of a child's health (e.g., epileptic seizure), as well as assisting in communication with parents/guardians. A children's personal escort in his everyday work uses different didactic tools (textbooks, writing and drawing set), props for sports and educational activity, assistive technology, individual educational plan, individual plan of services, diary/log book and work report. Planning and implementing of an individual plan of services means work in multidisciplinary team with social workers, psychologists and special education teachers.

The job is usually performed indoors but also outdoors, depending on the assistance provided to a child. Working hours depend on the school obligations of a child or working hours of a day care centre in which a child spends specific time during the day. The job is dynamic and requires full commitment and high level of responsibility.

Desirable traits/requirements

- Empathy and focus on the needs of beneficiaries
- Patience and perseverance
- Responsibility and reliability
- Being well-organized and communicative
- Creativity and openness
- Perceptive
- Emotional and psychological stability
- Flexibility and responsiveness
- Team work

Positive aspects:

- A children's personal escort assists children on a daily basis and supports them in their everyday activities and development and how to maintain their independence which is a cause of satisfaction and fulfilment. This job is interesting, dynamic, human and versatile.

Negative aspects:

- The children's personal escort's job often requires irregular working hours and working on holidays. The work day may be quite challenging. Also, this job requires a lot of personal commitment and energy. Work with certain children can be very demanding.

Career path/ fields of work:

There is no formal education and formal qualification for the job of children's personal escort, but it requires a specific training for obtaining a license.

A children's personal escort works in a direct contact with children with disability both at social protection institutions (social work centres, day care centres, day care centres for disabled children, etc.) and within assistance programs and daily services in a community implemented by specialized associations and organizations providing this social service.