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Nursing Roles & Settings Reflection

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I have experience working as a caregiver in an assisted living facility, and previously to my experience as a caregiver, I worked at another assisted living facility as a server. I feel that this opportunity improved my communication skills with residents, and has been a good learning experience for my future in nursing. Although I work at assisted living caring for my elders, I have always been interested in working with kids whether it was pediatrics or labor and delivery. Working in a facility like this I know that anything can happen at any moment, so I have some experience with a high pace environment and a slower pace environment because it's all unpredictable. Although there's more responsibilities as a registered nurse than there are as a caregiver/ LNA/ CNA, I have experience in knowing that you can't predict what will happen when you're at work, and I have experience working alongside nurses. These are good skills to have when considering what type of nursing I want to pursue. No matter what type I choose, I need to have good communication skills, patience for when it gets busy and difficult, and be a good educator, listener, advocate, and caregiver for my patients. I feel like I've learned all those skills as a caregiver at my current job because whenever a resident needs further clarification or advice on something, I go to the nurse so that the nurse can help with any clarifications they may need, that I'm not able to give.

An area that sparks my interest is a pediatric nurse, which was talked about in the book. As I stated in the paragraph above, I've pretty much always had an interest for working with kids. Being able to take care of kids and reassuring them that I'm there to help them makes me feel like I've accomplished something. Being there for them and their families, making sure they know I have their best interest and I'm there to help. I also think that when working with

pediatrics, you learn so much everyday. I've been told that part of being a nurse is learning something new everyday, and when I learn something new for the kids, it will only help my future patients going forward. A good role for this setting would be to have patience. You need it for every setting, but kids don't always understand the way adults do. Sometimes it takes more explaining and reassurance to a child to make them feel comforted and safe with whatever you may be doing to help them.

While all of these areas of nursing stood out to me because they're all so interesting in their own ways, my second area would be a nurse midwife. In some states this does require further education, but I think no matter what it's an important part of nursing. Nurse midwives are there to educate their patients about the birth process, and all the decisions they could make about their birth. Along with any other form of nursing, this position requires a lot of trust between the patient, the patient's family, and the nurse. Giving birth can be extremely scary for some, and some don't have as good of an experience as others do, so having a close relationship with your midwife is extremely important. They're there to educate you and support you. They can guide you through postpartum care, family planning, or any questions you have regarding birth. A role that is important for this area would be protection. This is important because you're there to protect, defend, and support your patient. Actively showing that you're there to protect, help, reassure, and defend your patient, could build trust between not only you as the midwife, and your patient, but also the patient's family. It's a scary time for some, so having someone you know is there to protect you can be relieving.

No matter what, I think the roles I mentioned above for my specific chosen areas are important in all nursing areas. It's such a high demand job and you're there to help the patient and make them and their families feel as comfortable and safe as possible, so building trust between you as the nurse and your patient is important.