

Name of Professional: Gail Blom

Profession: Occupational Therapist

Company: Covenant Hand Therapy

Date of Interview: October 18, 2017

Assessment:

A Sturdy Foundation

After doing extensive research regarding the logistics and science-oriented aspect of Occupational Therapy, I began to fear that the profession would not be as creative and people-oriented as I would have liked it to be. However, after my interview with Mrs. Gail Blom, the owner of Covenant Hand Therapy in Plano, TX, I am once again confident that I will enjoy studying this profession. She has revealed to me the soft and caring side of daily work in the field, which is what drew me to the topic in the first place. Therefore, my first interview with Mrs. Blom turned out to be very beneficial in helping me begin my development in this field of study.

One of the primary things that Mrs. Blom said to me that stood out was her answer to my question, “what would you say is the most rewarding part of your daily job?” She told me that the most rewarding thing for her on a daily basis is finally seeing improvement in a struggling patient. This could include them finally overcoming a fear, breaking a boundary, or many other signs of progress. That concept would seem obvious and expected coming from an OTR, but to actually hear her sincerely speak the words made a significant difference in my perception of the profession. I now have regained my presumption of what Occupational Therapy will entail, and have renewed interest in the field of study.

Despite the fact that Mrs. Blom's explanations have given me renewed hope regarding my journey in my studies of Occupational Therapy, some important questions arose as a result of the interview. For instance, I now begin to question whether or not I have taken the right classes thus far to prepare me for pursuing this field. I mentioned to her that I have taken Psychology and Sociology classes, and while she agreed that those studies are crucial to the field of Occupational Therapy, she further explained how she took more advanced classes in both Biology and Chemistry in order to prepare her for her degree in OT, and reminded me that I would need a Masters Degree in OT should I want to pursue this career. This opened my eyes up to the fact that I need to carefully watch my class choices from now on if I want to have the opportunity to successfully pursue Occupational Therapy.

When looking back on this interview, I believe that even though I may not be able to ask Mrs. Blom to be my mentor, the experience was incredibly significant and set a strong foundation for what I should expect in this upcoming year both regarding academic research of Occupational Therapy and communication with professionals in the field. I now have elevated confidence speaking to professionals. I understand that they are people with the same passion for helping others in need that I have. Knowing this, I can begin to see Occupational Therapy becoming a viable plan for my future, even if I choose a different route. I will use the professional skills that I have gained through the experience in everything that I do in the business world.

Gail Blom

interested

- sister took her to handicraft school

- people learn to oil paint

favorite part: meet patient where they are

highlights

"thank you"

- progress

low

- someone not

making progress

- cancer

Normal Day

- hand therapy / lymphedema

- psychological all the time, 60% - 40%

- my camp counseling job is useful

*reliability

- need Masters in OT

- took Biology / Chem

-

~ Trinity Christian College

Greatest Challenge

- dealing with contingencies

- Schedule changes

Childhood

- taking care of grandma

- people person

- patience

- tolerance

Journey

- began as therapist

- then manager

- opened own place

• important memory

- opening clinic

(after 20 years)

- Texas Occupational

Therapy Association

professional network

- read a lot

- go to professional meetings

- work as a tech

• here

• sport and spine

- TWU