

Reflection (Coop 2013)
May 28/13

Over the course of my coop placement, there have been various highlights and challenges that I have had the pleasure to revel in. Numerous creative learning opportunities as well as a fun environment have all contributed to my success in cooperative education. My time spent at Dr. Stacey's dental office was time that I will never forget, and I would unreservedly recommend any other student interested in the field attempt to obtain time here as well. Though the placement was enthralling, there were difficulties that were assigned to me over the course of the month that I had to conquer on my own. Mastering the art of sterilization (the basics, anyways) was a piece of my cooperative studies that I will always cherish, and most certainly a highlight of the experience. Beginning my placement, I knew that being shy would be a disadvantage that would create a heavy toll on my learning here, but after a few preliminary days at work, I am now happy to share that my social skills have improved immensely. I can now carry myself confidently in many situations, and more importantly in the workplace. Along with a better set of communication skills, I have developed a better understanding of my future and what I want to accomplish. I gained assurance in my career path: dentistry, and more specifically, pediatrics. Meeting many patients whom are children, I realized that the doctor-patient dynamic, as well as patience are two of the most pivotal factors when working with children. Through observing procedures varying from teeth extractions to restorative fillings, it became lucidly evident that a warm and inviting staff and office make all the difference in achieving a smooth and successful appointment. Allowing me the opportunity to view these routine procedures was an absolutely incredible experience that has influenced and reassured me that dentistry is the aspiration choice I wish to choose! A special thank you to Dr. Stacey, Corrie, Jane, April and Kate for enabling me to come into your office and making this past month fondly memorable for me.

Ciara Dushnisky