



# Intellectual Disability Nursing

The RNID (Registered Nurse Intellectual Disability), who works with persons with an intellectual disability, has a diversity of roles. This includes providing nursing support across a variety of environments such as home, education and community settings, as well as specialist practice, e.g. the family home, residential and respite services, schools, primary healthcare and acute settings. Health promotion, guidance and nursing support is provided by the RNID to children, adolescents, adults and their families.

A guiding philosophy of RNID practice is that persons with all levels of ability have the same rights and, in so far as possible, the same responsibilities as other members of society. People with intellectual disability have a right and a need to live within the community and receive those services necessary to meet their specialised and changing needs. They should receive, if and when necessary, professional assistance and services which will allow recognition, development and expression of their individuality. As members of the nursing profession, RNIDs provide specialist nursing services and support that are reflective of the healthcare needs of people with intellectual disability and their families.

The intellectual disability nursing programme contains the essential elements that facilitate the development of professional knowledge, skills and attitudes. The curriculum is diverse, incorporating both theoretical and clinical components. It allows scope for the continuing development of subject matter and for the extension of new knowledge to accommodate emerging trends. This ensures graduate nurses are up-to-date and prepared to embark on a professional career in intellectual disability nursing.

The following is the minimum number of weeks to be spent in different aspects of practice instruction over the educational programme.

## Clinical placements - Intellectual Disability Nursing

Practice instruction	Minimum number of weeks
Health and Social Development of the Child	8 weeks
Health and Social Development of the Adult including Care of the Older Person	30 weeks
Specialist Intellectual Disability nursing	12 weeks (e.g. CNS/RANP nurse-led services, behaviours that challenge)
Nursing of client groups in other settings	6 weeks, with a minimum of 2 weeks in each of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• General nursing</li><li>• Mental health nursing</li><li>• Care of the older person</li></ul>
Remaining Regulated Placement	25 weeks
<b>Total</b>	<b>81 weeks (supernumerary and internship)</b>

For more information:  
<https://www.nmbi.ie/Education/Standards-and-Requirements>

You may also find [www.nmbi.ie](http://www.nmbi.ie) useful

