# Orthoptics interview : meet Catherine

>> CATHERINE: My name's Catherine, and I'm an Orthoptist.

>> CATHERINE: An orthoptist treats people with double vision and lazy eyes, and people with eye movement problems.

>> CATHERINE: We work in a variety of, locations and settings in our roles so we are predominantly based in outpatients departments in hospitals, but within the hospital, we may go to ward and visit, patients on ward.

>> CATHERINE: We also go out to nurseries and primary schools to test children but can do specialist clinics and smaller clinics out in the community as well in health centres and, community hospitals as well. And sometimes we even visit homes of patients as well to assess them at home.

>> CATHERINE: Most people have no idea what an orthoptist is, and I get teeth or bones, or feet. I tend to explain it as a physio for the eyes.

>> CATHERINE: I really love my job, really love it, and I love the variety that you get, the variety of patients that you get to see because we treat both children and adults and you need quite different skills for both of those.

>> CATHERINE: So, one minute you need to be an entertainer and a clown to get the children to cooperate and test them. And then the next minute you need to have your investigative head on to try and get to the bottom of why, a complex adult patient that has eye problems and try and work out what needs to be done and diagnose their condition that they have.

>> CATHERINE: We have various clinics set up, so some we work autonomously, so it'll just be ourselves seeing the patients and diagnosing and treating them. but then we also have clinics where we work very closely with ophthalmologists, and optometrists as well. So, joint clinics where we'll collaborate in a multidisciplinary team.

>> CATHERINE: It's great working with other colleagues because you can all bring your own experience together and you can then follow up on the patients full journey as well to see, what's happening next and the things that you found, how that is then going to affect, what happens to them and how that might have changed their diagnosis and their treatment plan.

When I decided to become an orthoptist, I knew I wanted to work in healthcare and I was really interested in science and, I'd done some work experience in a local department.

>> CATHERINE: So, got to sit in and, and see what an orthoptist did. So, then explored where I could apply for that at university because it is a university degree that involved, placements around the country actually.

>> CATHERINE: So, I got to travel around the country so you get sent to experience different hospitals and different departments to see how they work.

>> CATHERINE: I find it really rewarding being an orthoptist and you can make such a difference to people's lives as well, which, is a great feeling.