

NB dogs

Natalie owns a boutique, [NB Dogs](#), and explains “Our mission is to create long-lasting relationships with each of our customers. We are passionate about dog welfare and this extends to a commitment to help owners foster a full and rewarding life with their dog”.

The skills involved in caring can be easily transferrable to that of your professional life, building on interests and what you love can be

very rewarding.
#protectingyoungcarersfutures



Natalie answered the following questions for us –

Q. WHAT PERSONAL QUALITIES DO YOU LOOK FOR WHEN YOU ARE EMPLOYING SOMEONE?

A. *“Positivity, Ability to show initiative, A smile!”*

Q. WHAT SKILLS WOULD YOU EXPECT A PERSON TO HAVE IF THEY APPLIED TO WORK WITH YOU?

A. *“Good communication skills, Time management, Patience, Organisational skills, A good listener.”*

Q. WOULD YOU CONSIDER LIFE SKILLS THEY HAD ACQUIRED THROUGH A CARING ROLE?

A. *“Absolutely. I imagine being a carer you have skills in advocacy when you liaise with other professionals which would be transferable and used in the workplace, for example in my shop you would be able to listen to customer’s concerns and then you’d also be able to communicate them to management for a positive resolution. You may have experience managing medication or assessing risk on a daily basis. These skills could transfer in your workplace too, giving you the ability to assess an environment and provide solutions to minimise risks.”*

Q. IF SOMEONE HAD NO PAID EMPLOYMENT BUT HAD EXPERIENCE AS AN UNPAID CARER, WOULD YOU CONSIDER THIS EXPERIENCE AS PART OF THEIR JOB HISTORY?

A. *“Of course. Being a carer shows strength, commitment, reliability and dedication which are all valuable attributes to any workplace.”*

Q. HOW ‘CARER FRIENDLY’ IS YOUR WORKPLACE? CAN YOU GIVE ANY EXAMPLES?

A. *“We realise that being a carer can be a 24/7 role, so we would always allow you access to your mobile phone, and we would support you if you needed to leave at short notice or in an emergency. We aim to encourage employees to have open and honest discussions so we can offer support where needed.”*

Q. ARE YOU FLEXIBLE WITH TIME OFF, IF A YOUNG CARER NEEDED TO TAKE TIME OFF, ESPECIALLY AT SHORT NOTICE, WILL THIS BE OKAY?

A. *“Yes. Being a carer whilst working can be a juggling act and we would support you balance your caring responsibilities and your employment.”*