

Charlotte Thomas Riddle

Pediatrician

“The next day they come in and they’re all smiles. That’s very rewarding.”



Pediatrician Charlotte Riddle smiles as she examines a newborn baby.

Courtesy Claire Moss.

Job Description

Charlotte provides medical care for children from birth to approximately 20 years.

A Day on the Job

Starts her day by making rounds at the hospital. She is present at scheduled *caesarean sections*, *circumcises* newborn boys, and checks on newborn babies and sick children admitted to the hospital. Each doctor in Charlotte’s practice takes a turn doing hospital duty. • In her office, she examines check-up patients and sick children. “We have a check-up or two on the hour, with four or five sick visits. Each

doctor sets their own schedule.” • Documents patient information on each patient she treats. • Acts as a consultant for health-department nurses and family physicians. • Returns to the hospital to check on newborns and admitted patients. “We see any new babies that might have been born that day and then we go on rounds to see our other patients.” • When she is on night call, Charlotte sees patients and takes emergency calls throughout the night. Evening shifts also rotate among doctors.

Job Likes

“You’re heart to heart with the parents.” Charlotte enjoys the interaction with children and their parents. • Charlotte job-shares with another pediatrician, which means she and her partner split the responsibilities of one doctor. This allows both of them to work part-time (about 30 hours a week each) while raising their families. • She finds her job very rewarding. “You give them [the patient] the right medicine; the next day they come in and they’re all smiles. That’s very rewarding.” She also feels that she is making “a difference in their [the patients’ and their families’] lives, and you also are feeding yourself.” • Pediatrics is never boring; there is always variety. • “I like my partners a lot. I love to have people that I can talk to on a different level about different things. And to have that camaraderie really helps in the day-to-day.” • “I love to pore through my journals and learn about new things, and there is always something new to learn.”

Job Challenges

“I find it challenging to balance the stressful job involving critical care of children and the stressful job of raising a family. In today’s society, this is a challenge for both men and women, fathers and mothers.” • “I like my sleep,” and Charlotte’s schedule can deprive her of it. “Pediatrics involves long hours and hard work.” • Sometimes in today’s society, people tend to “place blame” and “point fingers.” It is challenging as a doctor to handle that stress. • “When you put your heart and your soul into something, you become vulnerable to people.”

Steps to Current Job

- University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee; Bachelor of Arts in Religion.
- University of South Carolina in Columbia; the first two years of medical school.
- Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, South Carolina; third and fourth years of medical school, Medical Doctor degree, honor society.
- University of Virginia in Charlottesville; Pediatric residency for three years.
- Pediatrician in a pediatric office and currently president of that practice.