

A SCIENTIST just like me



Ruth Sutton
Embryologist

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Hi there! I am Ruth Sutton – An embryologist



Where do I work?

I work in a laboratory, within a fertility clinic in a hospital. The clinic helps people who are having difficulties with having a baby naturally.

What did I like doing when I was at school?

I always enjoyed English, creative writing and reading at school. I became really interested in science as I got older, particularly biology.

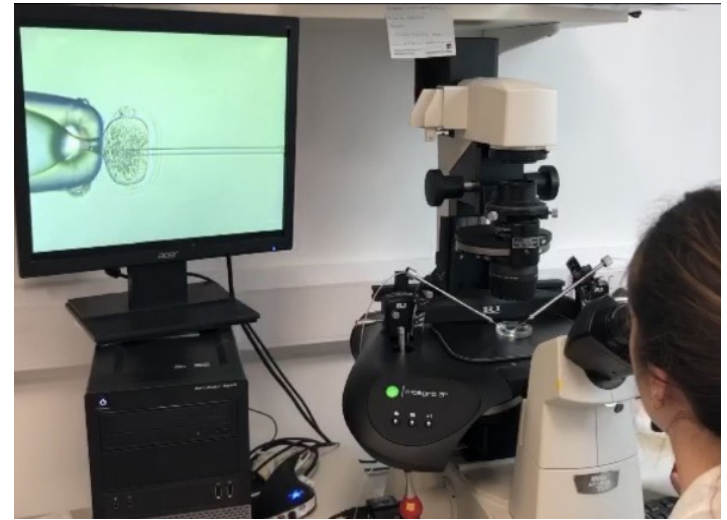
What do I like doing in my spare time?

I spend a lot of time outside running – I started during the pandemic and haven't been able to stop! I also like to read a good book or watch an episode of my favourite TV series.

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What do I do as an embryologist?

I work in a laboratory, processing sperm and eggs before they are used to create embryos. We do this for patients who cannot have a baby naturally. We also do this for same sex couples and single women or men who are using a sperm or egg donor. Our laboratory freezes some embryos so that they can be used later.



How does what I do make the world a better place?

Many patients long to have a baby of their own for many years before even starting treatment at the clinic. When the process is successful, I have helped their dream of becoming a parent come true.

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What I like about my job



I love being able to work in a laboratory, seeing how embryos grow and develop over time in our care. I also enjoy being around other amazing embryologists, as well as doctors, nurses and counsellors who all work so hard every day to help others.

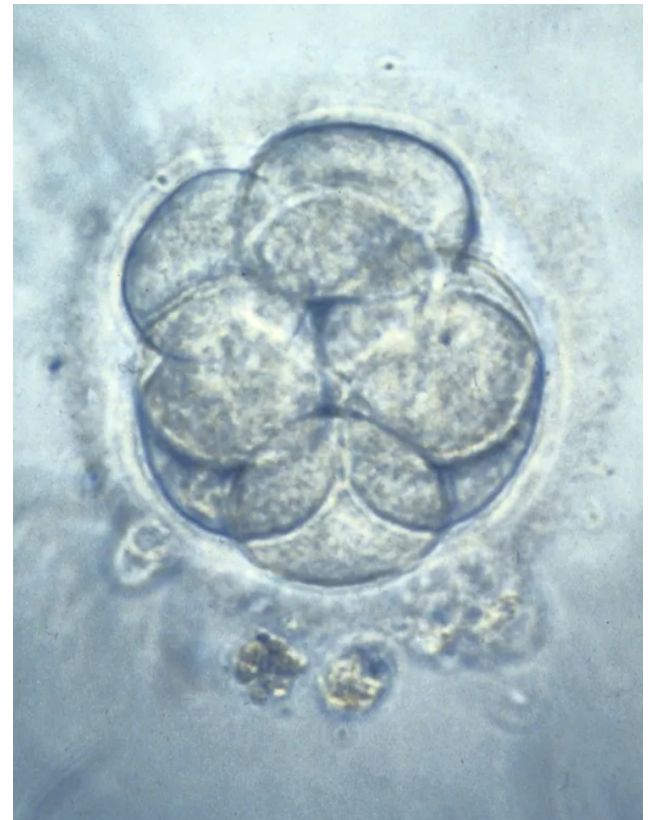
Challenges I have faced

There are not many fertility clinics where I am from, so I have had to move away from home to get the training I need to be an embryologist.

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If you want to be an Embryologist, you need:

- ✱ **to be a kind person** who enjoys helping and caring for others
- ✱ **to enjoy being hands on** and learning in practical ways, rather than just writing or reading
- ✱ **to be interested in scientific equipment**, for example microscopes, and be able to use it every day
- ✱ **to be curious and ask questions**



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Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be an embryologist like Ruth Sutton?

Why? Why not?

- ✦ What skills and interests do you already have that would help you become an embryologist?
- ✦ What new skills and knowledge would you need to develop?



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Free supporting resources for embryology

Why & How magazine – see 'Pictures for Talk' in issue Autumn 2022

Science at Work– see 'Meet two doctors'

I bet you didn't know... articles use cutting-edge science research as a context for learning and Teacher Guides can be used as classroom presentations. See:

- Blood tests could detect cancers
- Dragons could protect us from bad bacteria

Created by the Primary Science Teaching Trust

