

ON THE JOB: WITH ANDREW MARTIN PROFESSIONAL MAGICIAN

KidZone: What do your job duties include?

Mr. Martin: Bringing joy and wonder into people's lives through the performance of the magical arts.

KidZone: Is this what you wanted to be when you were a kid? Why or why not?

Mr. Martin: Yes. I discovered magic when I was about 10 and have been enchanted with it ever since. I saw an ad on TV for TV magic cards. I sent away for the cards and learned all I could about them. I had my first paid show when I was 11. I made five bucks performing at a library in Bedford.

KidZone: How much education did you need to begin your career? Where did you receive your schooling?

Mr. Martin: I mainly educated myself. I read every book I could find on magic and I started hanging out at a local magic shop. The older magicians there advised me a lot, but I had to prove I was dedicated. Ted Carrothers owned the shop and I worked there for many years. I met Homer the Clown there and he helped me a lot. Also, a magician named Dick Oslund, who travels around the country, would teach me whenever he came to town. I am still learning stuff today and I practice and study every single day. I always want to learn new techniques.

KidZone: Did you need any additional training? If so, what was it?

Mr. Martin: I learn from other magicians all the time. A few years ago I went to Las Vegas and studied with two of my favorite magicians, Jeff McBride and Eugene Berger. I also met Lance Burton and Mack King when I was out there.

KidZone: What do you like best about your job?

Mr. Martin: I love making people laugh and amazing them. I love to go to work!

KidZone: What part of your job could you do without?

Mr. Martin: Sometimes it is difficult to set up my bigger shows – especially when it is cold, or the event is someplace upstairs with no elevator. My back will hurt from lugging all the equipment.

KidZone: What do you feel is your greatest accomplishment in your career?

Mr. Martin: Passing on my love of magic to my son Eli. He is six years old and started performing with me when he was three. Now he has his own show and will be performing in Las Vegas next summer.

KidZone: What advice would you give kids who want to take up this line of work?

Mr. Martin: Go to the library and get some books on magic. I do teach magic through the Sylvania Link; call 419-885-4126 to sign up. Perform for your friends and family every chance you get – or as much as they will let you! Make it fun for yourself and the people who you are entertaining.

