Caroline Gardiner

As soon as I studied Biology in high school, I loved Science and knew that I would be a scientist. I studied Science at university and then had Science jobs.

I learned group working, planning and communicating at school. They have been very important in all of my Science jobs and I have kept learning during my career.

I worked in a team to develop a DNA database, which is now used by other scientists. DNA is a list of the instructions for how a living thing grows. A database is a group of lists. Making lists of these instructions takes a lot of time, care and money.  We found that we could do the work using half the chemicals. This saved a lot of money.

Concentration and care are needed in this kind of work. The same work must be done many times and it must be done carefully each time. A tiny bit of dirt could ruin everything so careful work is important.

I had to be able to talk to people about the work and to write about it for other people to read. Best of all, the BBC came to the lab to interview me about the work for the evening news!

In science, it is very important to want to find things out and to ask questions. Team working is important because it allows everyone to bring their skills and ideas together. In a lab, it is important to plan well and to follow the plan carefully.

I have always loved Science and learning about living things, particularly their DNA, and now I teach and inspire others, encouraging them to think about this as a career path. Perhaps you will be a scientist when you leave school. Good luck!