



My Visit to the Intensive Care Nursery (ICN)

Created by The Child Life Department
Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics



Hi my name is Mercy Bear and I'm going to take you on a visit to the ICN!
The ICN is a special place at Children's Mercy Hospital where your
brother or sister is staying. So follow me on this adventure to learn about
this special place.



This is the first place we will stop on our journey. This is the front nursing station. The people working behind the desk answer the phones, help visitors sign in, and can answer questions. These people will push a magical button that will allow us to enter the ICN.



These are the doors that will open when the magic button is pushed. Make sure your quiet because babies may be sleeping, and hold someone's hand so you can find your way to see your brother or sister .



It is very important that we wash our hands at the sink. The soap and water will wash all of the germs away. I like to sing the ABC's when I wash my hands. What song would you like to sing when you wash your hands?



The beds in the ICN are different than the beds you and I might sleep in at home. They are different so that the nurses and doctors can take care of your brother or sister. Which bed do you think your brother or sister is sleeping in?





This is one of the beds your brother or sister may stay in while they are at the hospital. It's called a crib.





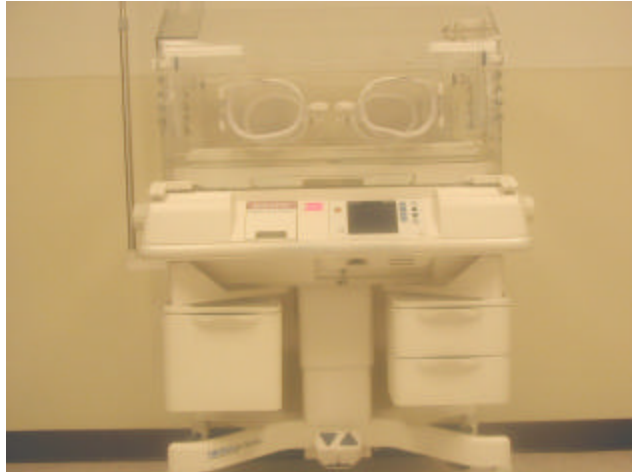
This bed is called a bassinet. The silver cabinet is a place to keep blankets and other things babies may need. I like this one because the sides are clear like windows.





This bed is special because it helps keep babies warm – it's called a warmer. You might need a step stool to be able to see your brother or sister in this bed. It's high up to make it easy for the nurses and doctors to see and take care of the baby.





This bed is called an isolette. Do you know what the circles on the side of the bed are for?





This is the chair and desk where the baby's nurse or doctor might sit next to the baby's bed. They use the computer to write about how they are taking care of your brother or sister, and they use the computer to find out about how the baby is feeling.

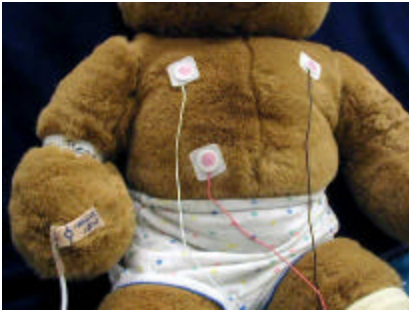


Now let's meet my friend Carey Bear. She'll help us learn about some of the things that are here at the hospital to help your brother or sister.





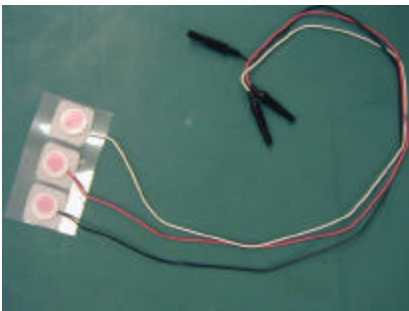
Can you find the white band with a green line on Carey's arm? Do you know what this is? It's called a blood pressure cuff. That means it can tell the nurse or doctor how well the blood is moving in the baby's body. The blue box next to Carey is what the nurses or doctors look at to find this out.



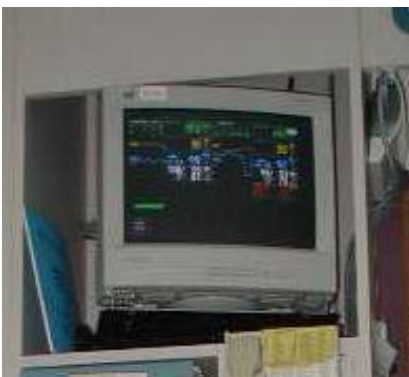
Carey is wearing some special stickers like you might see on you brother or sister. These stickers do not hurt. They tell the nurses and doctors how fast the baby's heart is beating and how fast the baby is breathing.



Can you point to where the stickers would be on you?



These stickers have long cords on them. Each sticker has a different color cord. What colors do you see?



The cords plug into this TV that is called a monitor. This monitor is where the nurses and doctors look to see how fast the baby's heart is beating and how fast the baby is breathing.



Your brother or sister may have a yellow tube like Carey has in this picture – it's called an NG tube. The tube goes in the baby's nose, but it does not bother the baby. This tube helps put milk in the baby's tummy, to help the baby not feel hungry.



There's another tube your brother or sister may have right under their nose. This tube helps the baby breathe better by bringing fresh, clean air right to both holes of the baby's nose.



This is a thermometer. It takes the baby's temperature. Have you ever had your temperature taken? This thermometer goes under the baby's arm. Why do you think the nurse needs to take the baby's temperature?





What do you think this is? It's not a bed – it's a place to put the baby to see how big the baby is. It is called an infant scale.



This is a machine that can help a baby breathe when they have trouble breathing by themselves. It's called a ventilator, and it gives the baby air through the blue tube – can you find the blue tube in the picture? This machine has lots of lights and can be kind of noisy when it is on.



These are some of the ways a baby can get air from the machine. Can you see what's different about where these tubes are on Carey?



Now you've learned about the ICN and some of the things you may see when you visit. If you want to know about anything else, just ask.



Thank you for coming to see the ICN with me.

Love,

Mercy Bear

