# Pediatric Intensive Care Unit Teaching Book

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

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This is the PICU waiting area. The waiting area is a place where parents of PICU patients can wait and rest very near to their patient. All visitors to the PICU need to sign in at this desk. The people working at the desk will give out Parent badges for parents to wear when going into the PICU to visit their patient. Siblings or visitors that are under 18 years old have to be with an adult to visit PICU patients, and have to complete a health screening at the check-in desk.

After visitors check in, the people behind the desk will push a button that unlocks these two doors. Let's go see what's inside!

This is the entrance into the PICU. You will hear lots of beeping noises and see lots of machines and people working. This book will tell you about the things you might see and hear in the PICU.

Each patient in the PICU has a nurse to take care of them – these chairs are for the nurses to sit in to be close to their patients.

Remember about the noises you might hear in the PICU?

This sign makes lots of different noises to give messages to the nurses.

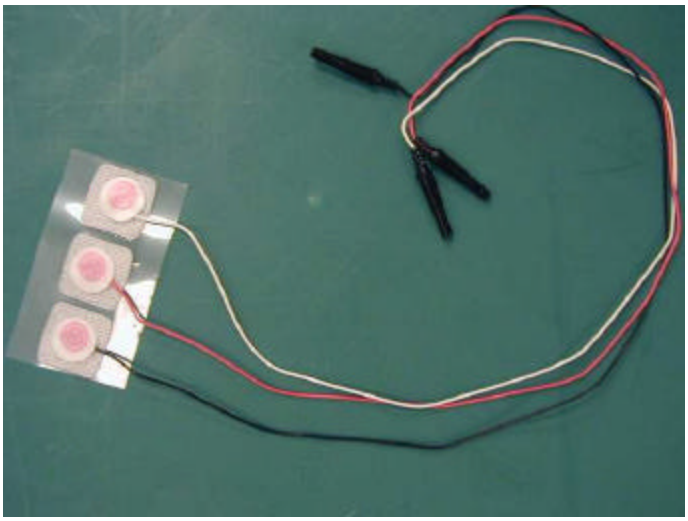
This is what a patient room looks like in PICU. Do you know why they have glass doors? The glass doors make it easier for the nurses and doctors to see and take care of the patients.

The pink sign on the glass door has the room number and patient's last name on it. Now let's go inside the room.

This cart is called a nurse server. Every room in the PICU has one of these. Many of the things the nurse needs to take care of patients are in these drawers, so you may see the nurse take things out or put things in the drawers while you are visiting a PICU room.

Now lets learn about all the different things that are on the wall by the bed.

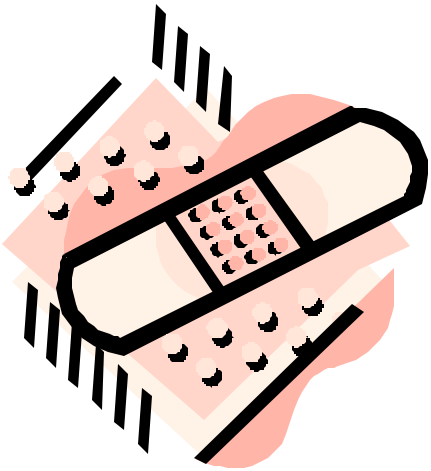
This monitor (that looks like a TV screen) shows numbers on the screen. The numbers tell the doctors and nurses how fast the patient is breathing and how fast the patient's heart is beating. This monitor is another machine in the PICU that makes noise.



These three cords plug into the monitor. At the end of each cord, there is a sticker that is put on the patient's chest or stomach.

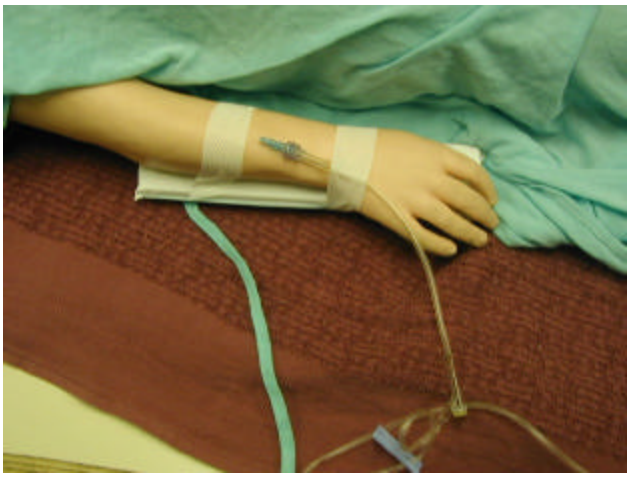
This is a picture of the oxygen, air, and vacuum valves. Oxygen is fresh, clean air that helps patients breathe better.

The oxygen travels from the wall to the patient's nose through a long clear tube like you see on this bear.



Now let's learn about some of the medical equipment you might see in the PICU.

Here is a picture of an IV (Intravenous). An IV is a tiny tube in the patient's vein. IVs deliver medicine and fluids to help the patient feel better.



The nurse sets the blue machine you see in this picture to deliver the right amount of medicines and fluids through the patient's IV. The blue machine also makes noises.

This yellow tube is called a feeding tube. This tube delivers food in a liquid form to the patient's stomach. The nurses can also deliver medicine and vitamins through this tube.

Some patients need to wear a neckbrace. A neckbrace keeps the neck and head from moving if the neck is injured.

This is a machine that can help a patient breathe when they have trouble breathing by themselves. It's called a ventilator, and it gives the patient 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 patient can get air from the machine. Can you see what's different about where these tubes are?

The cuff around the patient's arm is called a restraint. Restraints keep arms or legs from moving so patients can't hurt themselves or the medical equipment they need. The restraints are soft and foamy, and are different colors and sizes.

Now you've learned some new things about the hospital and the PICU. If you want to know more, remember that the nurses, doctors, and Child Life Specialists are here to help you learn.