

Jared Smith

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Midterm Reflection

I honestly feel very blessed to have been able to perform my preceptorship in the PICU after being hired there just recently. I am extremely excited to be working in this unit at Covenant Children's Hospital and have really enjoyed my preceptorship so far. The nurses in the PICU are all highly intelligent and inviting, they are always willing to show me new things or answer any questions I have without making me feel dumb. I have already learned a lot and am anxious to learn more as I want to continue to improve and I am finally getting a full example of what a nurse is responsible for during each shift. I am learning something every shift and I am trying my best to improve each time. The nurses have been very encouraging and have made me feel like I am doing fine for where I am right now, but I just want to be the best I can be. I have learned new techniques for blood draws and IV starts, new types of medication administration, interventions for respiratory issues, and a lot about peritoneal dialysis. I am excited to learn more and cannot wait to begin working in this unit as a nurse.

One small event that occurred that made me feel like I made a very, very small difference was with a six-month-old patient with a respiratory issue that my preceptor and I were taking care of one night. She had right sided atelectasis and some heart issues which made her very tachycardic and tachypneic. Along with many other interventions we were attempting to keep her on her left side to help pull some of the congestion off her lungs and help her breath. At one point during my next shift the following night the same patient become very tachycardic and tachypneic and was breathing at almost 100 rpm, so I went in the room and noticed she was on her back. I watched her breath and counted her respirations and decided to move her back onto her left side to help her lungs a little. I watched her for a bit longer and continued to observe her vitals on the monitor. After repositioning her she began to breath much easier and her respirations and heart rate lowered. I let the primary care nurse know that I had repositioned the patient to improve her work of breathing and respirations and she was thankful that I told her. I really didn't do much but I felt like I solved a very small problem on my own without getting nervous or having to ask for help. It made me feel like I had improved in some way and am slowly becoming a nurse.