

I am doing my preceptorship in the Pediatric Emergency Department. I have really enjoyed my experience so far, and I have had the opportunity to observe a wide range of skills and acquire hands-on knowledge on the floor. My preceptor has been very helpful in teaching me skills and allowing me to participate in patient care.

I have always loved working with children, and I would like to be a pediatric nurse in my future career. I have also always been interested in the ED because I enjoy the fast pace, so I was very excited to have the opportunity to do my preceptorship in the pediatric ED. At first, I was nervous to start because I knew that the ED can be intense and there is no room for error, but my preceptor has been amazing at teaching me and allowing me to do skills to get hands-on experience. I am a hands-on learner, so it has been helpful that I have had the opportunity to practice my skills.

My first day was in triage, which was nice because I got to get a sense of how the floor works and learn how they triage in pediatrics. Once we were on the floor, my preceptor and I did the initial assessments together. She showed me how they get a quick history and then do a focused assessment on the patient. I am now doing the initial assessments on my own, which has been a great learning experience. It has not only been good for practicing my assessment skills, but I have also been able to work on my communication. I have been learning how to communicate with both the patient and the parents. It is very different from working with adults, and I have really enjoyed learning how to incorporate the parents into the patient's care. I have also been learning how to chart, and I have started charting assessments and vital signs on my own. Another thing that we do often is discharge teaching. I have learned how to go over discharge instructions with the families and ensure that they understand what is needed for their child.

I have also gotten to see a variety of patients and look at different cases. I have had patients coming in for common things such as sore throat, vomiting, and fever. As a result, I have gotten a lot of experience swabbing patients, which has been very interesting. I have also gotten experience in more serious cases; there have been patients brought in from Kite-Flight and the ambulance. With these cases, I have gotten some experience in more serious traumas, and it has been very interesting to watch how everyone works together as soon as the patient comes in. Whether it's starting IV's, doing assessments, or getting the vital signs, everyone works together to make sure the patient is given the best care.

Overall, the Pediatric ED is a very good learning environment for me. My preceptor has been great in teaching me and including me in everything that she does. She has also given me the opportunity to do things on my own, such as discharge teaching, assessments, etc., which has pushed me to make nursing decisions on my own. I have really enjoyed my first five shifts, and I can't wait to start the next five.