

Working with Children in a Hospital Setting



Why

Empower children in a new or frightening situation

What

Decide what information is important for the child to know.

Where

Create a kid-friendly space.

How

Sit at eye level, explain in child-friendly language, and ask for their assistance.

Conversation Starters



Engaging and communicating directly with a child provides them a sense of control in a situation where they may feel afraid and powerless.

- Hi, _____, my name is _____. It's nice to meet you and it looks like you brought (parent, caregiver, a toy, etc.).
- Today we're going to do _____. I'm going to tell you everything that is going to happen before I do it.
- Do you have any questions for me? Do you think your parent/caregiver/toy has any questions?
- Some other kids have wondered _____. Other kids find it helpful to _____ while I do this.