



# Undergraduate Pediatric Leadership Clinical Experiences, an Innovative Educational Strategy



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## Purpose

- Create a leadership clinical experience using an innovative strategy that partners with leaders and managers in a pediatric hospital setting.
- Meet educational objectives that in turn cultivate excellent pediatric nurses upon baccalaureate graduation.
- Give students an active role in identifying and impacting hospital processes and the quality of patient care.

## Background

- Past leadership clinical experiences included assigning a student with a bedside nurse or a charge nurse on a unit and were not conducted in pediatric facilities.
- Traditionally, colleges do not include clinical objectives related to nursing leadership problem identification and resolution in the leadership course.
- There is a dearth of literature on the development of nursing leadership clinical experiences, with most of it focusing on traditional, outdated methods.
- Literature reviews support the need for educators to develop curriculum that prepare students to become future pediatric nurse leaders.

## Bibliography

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## Methodology

- Faculty of the Leadership course, partner with a local pediatric hospital to recruit expert leaders willing to precept undergraduate nursing leadership students.
- The assigned student shadows the leadership preceptor, who monitors the student's progress and assists the student in meeting required clinical objectives.
- Under the direction of the pediatric clinical preceptor, the leadership student takes an evidence-based approach and utilizes critical thinking and problem-solving skills to identify an opportunity to improve hospital processes and/or patient care in the assigned clinical area.
- The use of the nursing process is a relatable problem-solving method for nursing students to use and it is also aligned with the new Pediatric Nursing Excellence Model.

## Implications

### Hospital Partners:

- Students contribute to the function of the pediatric unit they are assigned by assisting with tasks/duties that fulfill clinical outcomes.
- Provides opportunity to recruit new graduate nurses to work for the assigned unit or hospital.
- Benefit long term from continuation of quality assurance and changes made as result of the student projects.
- Students participate in educating staff on new protocols or details of quality assurance initiatives.
- Preceptors are often able to use the hours spent with the student for maintaining credentialing or clinical ladder requirements.
- Preceptors are honored at a breakfast at the university's campus.

### Students:

- Participate in problem identification and data collection, thus experiencing the benefit of evidence-based practice related to pediatric nursing.
- Observe and experience effective communication including professional interactions with multidisciplinary teams.
- Enhanced understanding of the role of pediatric nurse leaders as it relates to the provision of quality care, scheduling, budgeting, hiring and disciplinary action.

### Faculty:

- Meet students' educational objectives in a new and innovative way.
- Builds relationships and rapport with local children's hospital.
- Cultivate competent pediatric nurse leaders with the confidence to serve in active leadership roles early in their careers.

## Sample Projects

Assessment/Analysis of Clinical Problem	Intervention by Pediatric Leadership Student
Medical Response Team - newly developed as a resource for families to call if child's condition deteriorates	Created in-room table tent education and phone labels; EMR checklist documentation developed and implemented
Increase in demand for nurses being required to float to different units throughout hospital	Checklist / short orientation guide developed to help a float nurse acclimate to the unit
Increase in blood culture contaminants in the pediatric population	Developed badge buddies with the proper order for taking blood specimens
Protocol needed for providing oral care using breast milk.	Used EBP to pre-package colostrum kits for oral care in NICU and CVICU babies
Increase in ED wait times related to increased volume of patients with flu-like symptoms	Developed Fast Track Covid-19/Flu screening to decrease wait times
Rooms were not always ready for patient arrival (cleanliness, safety, and supplies)	Created in-room checklist to ensure rooms were cleaned and ready in a timely manner

