

PEDIATRIC NURSING CAREER PATH

Nursing school

- Look for experiences working with children such as a pediatric nursing externship, student nurse position in a pediatric unit, or volunteer opportunities with children
- SPN student membership

01.

Getting your license

- Consider taking a review course
- Look at residency program application and start dates
- Plan and schedule your NCLEX test date

02.

Deciding where to apply

- Look at multiple hospitals
- Select organizations whose mission aligns with your values
- Consider options for career growth within that organization

03.

Marketing yourself

- Connect with SPN members in your area
- Show up for your interview prepared and dressed professionally
- Discuss your experience with children and families

06.

Starting your career

- Consider joining a unit-based committee
- Attend the SPN annual conference
- Actively participate in your SPN chapter for mentoring opportunities

05.

Gaining proficiency

- Participate in quality improvement and evidence-based projects
- Explore pediatric specialty care
- Keep up-to-date with information in the *Journal of Pediatric Nursing*

04.

Advancing Your Career

- Precept students and new nurses
- Obtain your nursing certification
- Health volunteering in the community
- Run for office in your SPN chapter

07.

Career Growth

- Seek new opportunities such as charge nurse, teaching a class, or presenting a poster
- Consider an advanced degree
- Participate in a research project
- Join a national SPN committee

08.

Lasting Impact

- Mentor other nurses in their career
- Generate new nursing knowledge
- Lead an SPN Committee or join the Board of Directors
- Present at the SPN annual conference

09.

Advanced Careers in Pediatric Nursing

Becoming a Pediatric Advanced Practice Nurse

After obtaining your BSN, you may choose to pursue to earn a master's degree in nursing and become a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (PNP) or Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) in Pediatrics.

Pediatric advanced practice nurses serve as pediatric healthcare providers in primary or acute care settings for well and ill children from birth to 21 years of age. Examples of primary care sites include physician offices, school health, ambulatory, or outpatient clinics, surgical centers, and health departments. The acute care environment encompasses the pediatric inpatient, intensive care, and intermediate care units, the pediatric emergency room, same day surgery center, and pediatric rehabilitation facility.

Clinical Nurse Specialists function in a variety of settings in both the direct and indirect role. They model expert direct family-centered patient care. In addition, they influence nursing care outcomes by providing education, expert consultation, and leadership in defining and implementing evidence-based practice for the staff. The Pediatric CNS may be identified in terms of a setting, a subspecialty, a type of care or a type of patient problem (e.g. skin, pain). They also work cooperatively with other disciplines to implement improvements in health care delivery systems.

Nurse Residency Programs

Nurse residency programs support new graduate nurses as they integrate into the profession. To meet those needs, we offer the RN Residency in Pediatrics program, which provides the specific tools and experiences needed by new graduates to become successful pediatric nurses.

Certification

The Society of Pediatric Nurses strongly supports and encourages certification for nurses at both the basic and advanced practice levels. There are two organizations, [Pediatric Nursing Certification Board](#) (PNCB), and [American Nurses Credentialing Center](#) (ANCC), that support certification programs. Each one has an initial exam and subsequent requirements for continued certification (*SPN members receive a discount on both of the initial exams!*).

Learn more at www.pedsnurses.org



The model for pediatric nursing excellence

Scan the QR code to learn more about our student membership opportunities



SOCIETY OF PEDIATRIC NURSES