

Children's Nursing Future is at Hand

This summer, Children's welcomes 32 nursing students who will participate in the Nurse Extern Program. This 10-week employment and enrichment opportunity is one of the many ways Children's attracts and prepares future pediatric nurses. During this experience, externs acquire valuable knowledge and skills that are specific to a career in pediatrics. Students receive first-hand opportunities, working with children with a wide spectrum of diseases and developmental levels. They have the opportunity to interact not only with the patient, but the entire family.



This year's program is a reflection of the hope and excitement this group is experiencing as they are preparing for their last year of nursing school and then the transition to the professional nurse role. The components of Children's Nurse Extern Program provide a rich experience for these nurses-to-be. Nurse externs gain valuable on-the-job experience as they work alongside the patient care team. Classroom learning events, designed to teach pediatric patient assessment and skills, are interactive and integrate the use of high-tech human patient simulators. Optional volunteer experiences at the Ronald McDonald House, evening social activities and even a private group on Facebook will help these future nurses bond and support one another.

During the summer, externs are paired with a nurse preceptor who teaches organizational skills and the art of prioritizing. The preceptor helps the extern fine-tune their assessment skills and learn to critically think in stressful situations. While the externs do not administer medications, blood or start IVs, they do learn about the medications, blood administration and techniques for finding optimum IV sites. To learn more about what externs can do this summer, check out the [Nurse Extern Preceptor Guide](#).

As externs are a part of our organization this summer, let's show them the Children's Spirit. Take the opportunity to embrace and nurture these future Children's nurses. Smile and make them feel welcome. Share yourself with them and get to know who they are. Include them in staff conversations and lunchtime. Show them around the unit or hospital. Share your pearls of knowledge and be on the alert for educational opportunities—they are hungry to learn. Play your part in giving our externs their "Wings to Fly."

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Epic Down During Tuesday Night Shift

IS&T will perform maintenance work on Epic from 1-5 a.m. Wednesday, June 2 (Tuesday night shift).

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Children's Nurse Practitioner Featured on Cover of *ONS Connect*

Ellen Olson, RN, MS, CPNP, published an article in *ONS Connect* and was featured on the cover of the May issue.

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Nursing Research Symposium Ignites the Spirit of Inquiry

The internal conference taught Children's nurses more about our Evidence Based Practice model and how to begin to participate in the research process within their unit.

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Congratulations G.R.E.A.T. Ambassador Award Winner, Heather Richard

Heather Richard has been recognized for her contributions to the healthcare profession.

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Children's Upgrading its Scheduling System; Sign Up June 1

Children's will roll out a new Web-based scheduling and shift management system called Shift Connect beginning in mid-August. The implementation will occur in phases.

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Congratulations to Our Health-Care Heroes

This year, two music therapists at Children's won the *Atlanta Business Chronicle's* Health-Care Heroes Awards for developing a music therapy program for children battling cancer.

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Notice Delays in Outlook? Clean Out Your Folders

To prepare for the upgrade to Children's e-mail server, IS&T