

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

Pediatric Nursing Career Pathways



Engage Students



Spark Interest in Pediatrics



Provide Career Steps & Insights



IPN

INSTITUTE of PEDIATRIC NURSING

*Supporting the Pediatric Nursing Certification Board's
vision for a healthier world one child at a time*

PNCB

PEDIATRIC NURSING
CERTIFICATION BOARD

Introduction

Infographics of career opportunities for pediatric Registered Nurses (RNs) and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) can be valuable tools in the nursing classroom. The **Institute of Pediatric Nursing (IPN)** offers 14 infographics that are effective for student use due to their visual appeal, ease of understanding, and ability to convey information concisely. More career pathways are in development!

In this Educator's Guide we offer suggestions for integrating the infographics into your classroom activities. These suggestions enhance learning by engaging nursing students, facilitating discussions, and providing practical insights into the numerous career opportunities available to pediatric nursing professionals.



Pediatric Nurse Scientist
RN

Pediatric nurse scientists (or nurse researchers) investigate how to make health care better for kids, families, communities. Sometimes they explore how to better support nurses. Whatever topic they tackle, they use evidence and best practices to transform outcomes.

Keywords

- Passion for data and how it can improve child health
- People skills to mentor and manage staff supporting research projects and grant funding opportunities
- Writing skills for grants, reports, journal articles, and research protocols
- Scientific Breakthrough
- Curious
- Detail Oriented
- Spreadsheets!
- Foresight to explore the "what," "how," and the "why"

Career Steps

- 1 Obtain your BSN and pass the NCLEX exam. Apply for RN licensure through your State Board of Nursing, then gain work experience as a pediatric RN.
- 2 Pursue either a PhD or a doctorate of nursing practice (DNP) with a research/evidence-based practice focus.
- 3 Seek your Certified Pediatric Nurse (CPN) credential from PNCB.
- 4 Participate in research studies, translation of knowledge, and other scholarly activities (writing, publishing, presenting, grant writing, teaching evidence-based practice, etc.).
- 5 Identify a nurse scientist mentor in order to learn about the unique role and qualifications needed, as well as how to structure a program.
- 6 Start your job search at PNCB's career center: <https://careers.pncb.org/jobseekers/> using terms like nurse scientist, nurse researcher, evidence-

Infographic Preview

Each infographic provides:

- A down-to-earth description of the role
- Ideal skills or personality traits
- Keywords / buzzwords
- Concrete career steps to achieve the role
- Below the steps are recent articles about the role and references

Explore All Infographics

Visit <https://ipedsnursing.org/career-pathways> or use this QR code:



www.ipedsnursing.org
www.pncb.org

Group Activities

For the group activities listed below, provide nursing students with printed or digital copies of the pediatric nursing career path infographics. Divide nursing students into small groups and assign each group one of the pediatric nurse career paths.

Interactive Infographic Analysis

During the first part of the class, have each group analyze the assigned infographic exploring the description, keywords, and steps required to achieve the role. In addition, students should visit the links and other resources included in the infographic. At the end of the time allotted, have each group present their findings to the class, highlighting the unique aspects of the selected career path.

Poster Board Displays

Have each group create a visually appealing poster board display incorporating the infographic and supplementing it with additional pictures and information to highlight the selected career path. You may choose to hold a contest for the most eye-catching and influential poster board display. The displays can later serve as visual references for students to explore and discuss during class breaks or free time.

Role-Playing Scenarios

Have each group prepare and perform short role-playing scenarios demonstrating how a pediatric nurse fulfilling the assigned role might interact with children, families, and colleagues. Advise that specific skills and knowledge required for each career opportunity should be made evident through the role-play scenarios.

Collaborative Research Project

Instruct each group to conduct in-depth research on their assigned career path, utilizing the infographic as a starting point. Have each group create a comprehensive presentation or report showcasing their findings, including job outlook, required education and certifications, salary range, and potential career advancement opportunities.

Individual Activities

Career Exploration Stations

Set up different stations in the classroom, each representing a specific pediatric nursing career opportunity. Provide each student with a Career Exploration Survey (available on the next page) to indicate when a station is visited. Have the nursing students rotate through the stations, where they can analyze the infographics, ask questions, and discuss the roles and responsibilities associated with each career path. After exploring each station, students should complete and submit the Career Exploration Survey.

Career Reflection Essays

Ask nursing students to individually reflect on the infographics and select a career opportunity that interests them most. Instruct them to write a reflective essay discussing their reasons for choosing that career path, their personal goals and aspirations, and how they plan to pursue and prepare for that specific career opportunity.

Career Panel Discussion

Invite pediatric nurses working in different practice settings to visit the classroom for a panel discussion. Have the students analyze the infographics before the panel discussion and be prepared to ask questions about the roles and responsibilities, career progression, challenges, and rewards associated with each career opportunity.

Pediatric Nurse Interviews

Encourage nursing students to interview pediatric RNs and APRNs working in different pediatric practice settings, using the infographics to guide their questions. They can record the interviews or summarize the key points to share with the class, providing insights into the firsthand experiences and perspectives of professionals in various pediatric nursing roles.

Portfolio Development

Instruct nursing students to create a career portfolio with information about pediatric nursing career opportunities. They can include the infographics, additional research, personal reflections, and other relevant materials that display their interests. This activity can help them plan and track their career development throughout their nursing education.

Pediatric Nurse Career Exploration Survey



Student Directions

Rotate through the Pediatric Nurse Career stations. Stop at each station to analyze the different Pediatric Nurse Career Pathway Infographics. Ask questions and discuss the roles and responsibilities associated with the career opportunity showcased at that station. Indicate with a checkmark next to the appropriate career path when you have completed your visit. After exploring all stations, answer the survey questions.

Career Paths

- Chief Nursing Officer
- Clinical Nurse Leader
- Certified Pediatric Nurse
- Educator / Faculty
- Nurse Entrepreneur
- Organizational (or Shared) Governance Council Member
- Pediatric Nurse Scientist
- Pediatric Primary Care Mental Health Specialist
- Pediatric Nurse Practitioner
- Preceptor
- Professional Organization Leader

More pathways coming soon: Unit leader, school nurse, clinical nurse educator, nurse manager, quality & safety nurse, and more!



Scan the QR code for digital versions of the infographics or to learn more about the Institute of Pediatric Nursing (IPN).

Survey

1. Which of the pediatric nursing career opportunities interests you most?

2. What is the primary reason you selected that career path?

3. What are your personal career goals at this time?

Name:

Class:

Date:

Find your future in pediatric nursing.
www.ipedsnursing.org
www.pncb.org



About Us



Strengthening pediatric nursing for the profession & child health

The Institute of Pediatric Nursing (IPN) is a committee of the Pediatric Nursing Certification Board (PNCB) that exists to optimize the health and well-being of children, youth, and their families through the development of a sustainable, highly qualified pediatric nursing workforce. The IPN taps into our specialty's top minds to create resources that strengthen practice, promote pediatric nursing careers, support education, and more.

- Safeguard the future of pediatric nursing care with our [whitepaper](#) that includes ***Five Things Pediatric Faculty Can Do Right Now***
- See our [Ideas for Pediatric Clinical Experiences](#)
- Explore [Pediatric Nursing Workforce Data](#)
- Share our [National Directory of Pediatric Nurse Residency Programs](#)
- Inspire students to choose pediatrics with our [Campaign for Pediatric Nursing resources](#)

At PNCB, we believe our work makes kids healthier.

PNCB is the largest and most essential organization for the certification, continuing education, and competency development of nursing professionals who provide care for children, adolescents, and young adults. Setting the standard since 1975, PNCB is proud of the 55,000+ RNs and advanced practice nurses working each day to make our vision a reality. Children are our future. We're in this together so that kids get the best possible care today, physically and emotionally, for a healthier world tomorrow. Explore all that we offer at <http://www.pncb.org>.

Support student interest in pediatric nursing.

www.ipedsnursing.org

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