



Short Procedure Unit (SPU) Tour

Welcome to St. Christopher's Hospital for Children

When you first arrive for your surgery, your parents will check in at the Information Desk in the hospital lobby.

You will go to the Admission's Office where the Admission Clerk will have your parents fill out some papers. She will give you a hospital bracelet with your name and birth date on it. The bracelet will help the doctors and nurses know your name even when you are sleeping. Your parents will get passes to wear, so everyone knows where they are going.

You will take the main elevators to the 2nd floor.

You will see the sign for The Short Procedure Unit.

A staff member will take your admission papers from your parents/guardians.

You can then sit in the waiting area. There are televisions that you can watch and some toys you can play with while you wait.

One of the medical assistants will call your name and take you to another area. Mom and dad can go with you. Here they will measure your temperature, blood pressure, and oxygen level. They will also see how much you weigh and how tall you are.

You will get your own special bed called a stretcher. It is a bed with wheels on it. Then you will get hospital pajamas to wear. There are also toys, movies and video games for you to play with while you wait.

Next someone from Child Life will show you a book with pictures of different things and places you are going to see throughout the day.

A nurse practitioner will talk with you and your parents. Then she will listen to your heart and lungs and look in your ears, mouth and nose. It is her job to make sure that you are not sick and it is OK for you to have surgery.

Someone from anesthesia will also come and talk with you. They are usually dressed in special clothes called scrubs. Some people think they look like pajamas. They also have caps on that cover their hair. They might also listen to your heart and lungs. Anesthesia is the medicine that makes you go to sleep for your surgery.

A lot of times, right before it is time for you to go for your operation, the nurse will give you a small cup of medicine to drink. It might make you a little bit tired and a little silly.

A nurse from the operating room will come and give you a ride on the stretcher across the hall to the operating room. Your parents will wait for you in the waiting room.

The operating room is a special room that has to be really clean so everyone will have on hats and masks. You will just be able to see their eyes. They wear these special things so that if they have a cold, you won't get it.

There are lots of special equipment, machines and even a special bed you will get to lay on. Once you lay down they will put a seat belt on you. Someone will put the pulse ox, a light up band aid, on your finger, a blood pressure cuff on your arm, and three stickers on your chest so that the doctors and nurses can see how your heart is beating.

The anesthesiologist will then place a mask over your nose and mouth and give you a special medicine to make you fall asleep. It is different than going to sleep at night time. The medicine makes your whole body fall asleep so that you won't feel anything when the doctor does your operation. When your operation is all done, the anesthesiologist will stop giving you the medicine and you will wake up.

When you are asleep the anesthesiologist will put an IV into your hand or arm. It is a tiny tube that gives your body the medicine and fluids that it needs. There is no needle in it. You will see tape on your hand keeping it in place until it is time to go home.

You will then go to the recovery room. This is where you will wake up. After you wake up someone will take you to the 5th floor if you are going home. Your parents or guardians will be waiting for you here. You may still be a little tired. The nurse will take your blood pressure a couple more times. On the 5th floor, the nurse will give you something to drink. Once you finish waking up and the doctor says you can leave, you will be able to go home to rest.

Some kids need to stay in the hospital overnight after their operation. If the doctor told you that you would be staying in the hospital, someone will take you to your room. Your parents or guardians will be waiting for you there.