

Helpful Suggestions for Bismarck Sanford

1. Before entering the pediatric floor, make sure your hands are clean. There are hand sanitizer stations located throughout the hospital. It is REQUIRED protocol to sanitize your hands both before entering a room and before leaving it.
2. If you choose to enter an isolation room (this is strictly voluntary), then you MUST follow the guidelines posted on the door for wearing protective gear. NO EXCEPTIONS!
3. Your coat, purse, etc. may be stored in the parents' lounge, the nurse's station, or the nurse's workroom (which is kept locked, but you may ask for entrance, if you wish).
4. The nurse's station will give you the room #'s and ages of those they feel will benefit from a visit on that day.
5. The pediatric floor can be a very busy place. Wait patiently at the desk for someone to help you. They are grateful for our presence, but patient care must come first.
6. Knock before entering a patient room. When you are invited in, tell them who you are, who you represent, and why you are there. Tell them you are a teacher – it generates immediate trust.
7. NEVER ask about the illness. The child and parent alike are generally weary of talking/thinking/dwelling on the illness. Plus, we must be careful about crossing privacy lines.
8. Entering a room labeled "isolation" is totally up to you. If you have young children at home, you may wish to pass on these rooms. Remember that these are contagious and gravely ill children.
9. SMILE, SMILE, SMILE and be a ray of sunshine. Whether the child or parent has the strength to express appreciation is moot. Know that you HAVE brightened their day. Make sure the parent knows that the book is a GIFT – no charge.
10. If you are ill on your scheduled day, please do not read to children. There is no need to find a sub or let the hospital know.
11. Sanford Pediatric floor phone number: [701-323-6698](tel:701-323-6698)