

The Ultimate IV Care Kit for Kids:

Transforming the IV Experience for Children

Harness the power of play and new pediatric friendly IV technology for more compassionate and gentle IV care.

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Transforming the IV Tale

Bridging the gaps in pediatric IV care

Every child deserves to experience hospital care that’s as stress-free and painless as possible. Yet, many children and their families face anxiety, especially around IV care. Additionally, without the right education, resources and technology, IV treatment can quickly turn from a lifeline to a direct line to infection.

The Ultimate IV Care Kit for Kids bridges the gaps in pediatric IV care by providing resources and solutions to make IV treatment more gentle, less traumatic and safe.

In this guide discover:

- 1 Understanding IV Care Through Medical Play**
Use the power of medical play and the invaluable contributions of child life specialists.
- 2 Relatable Medical Resources for Little Minds**
Use this curated collection of children’s books and TV shows to make hospital care more familiar and comforting.
- 3 Pediatric Friendly IV Technology- A Kinder Approach**
Protect against pain and infection with advanced pediatric IV dressings and vascular access line guards.

Compassionate care from hospital to home

This guide was carefully created for both hospital care providers as well as parents and care providers in the home.

Understanding IV Care Through Medical Play

Use the magic of medical play and partner with Child Life Specialists

Understanding is critical to comfort. Medical play¹ allows children to become familiar with hospital procedures, turning the unknown and frightening into something understandable and manageable.

Medical play is a therapeutic approach that uses play tools and techniques to help children understand, process and cope with their medical experiences². By integrating familiar toys and play scenarios, children can explore and demystify the unknown elements of their healthcare journey, such as IV care. Giving children a voice and semblance of control recognizes their need for autonomy.

With medical play and the dedicated support of child life specialists, we can transform IV care from a source of fear to one of empowerment. This ensures that even in the sterile world of medicine, children can find comfort and care.

Medical play bridges the gap between fear and understanding.

Benefits of Medical Play

- ✓ Reduced anticipatory fear
- ✓ Lower stress during the procedure
- ✓ Decreased pain and trauma
- ✓ Strengthened coping skills
- ✓ Better outcomes





Medical Play at Home

Preparing young minds for IV procedures

Parents and caregivers can use medical play at home³ to ready their child for an upcoming IV procedure.

With simple play tools and techniques, medical play can foster a sense of confidence⁴ in children and bring more normalcy to having an IV.

Medical Play Tips for Home

Use toy medical kits:

Find a children's toy medical kit with syringes, stethoscopes and bandages. These tools provide a tangible way for kids to understand the instruments that will be used during their procedure.

Use role play:

Encourage the child to play the role of patient. Focus on the area of their body the IV will be placed and explain what is going to happen.

Use role reversal

Empower children by allowing them to become the doctor or nurse, giving them a sense of control and understanding of the procedure's dynamics.

Use storytelling

Create a story around a beloved toy or doll needing an IV. Walk through the process in a fun and engaging manner, focusing on the positive outcome and benefits of IV treatment.

Medical Play in the Hospital

Every little act can make a world of difference in a child's experience

In a hospital or clinic, medical play becomes a powerful tool⁵, especially when guided by the expertise of a Child Life Specialist.

Child Life Specialists⁶ are experts in using play to ease a child's apprehensions and enhance their understanding of medical procedures. If your child is due for an IV procedure, or any medical intervention, consider requesting the support of a Child Life Specialist⁷.

Even in urgent situations, healthcare providers can offer a moment of play and comfort to children using medical play⁸. By allowing a child to briefly explore medical tools, or giving them a stethoscope to listen to their heartbeat, a swift gesture can turn an intimidating situation into one of comfort and empowerment. normalcy to having an IV.

Medical Play Tips for in the Hospital

Meet with a Child Life Specialist:

Request to partner with a Child Life Specialist ahead of an IV procedure.

Create space for your child to voice fears:

Openly ask and talk about any worries your child may have to tailor medical play effectively to reduce stress.

Join in and participate in play:

Reduce hesitation and join in medical play scenarios to reassure your child.

Bring in a beloved toy:

If allowed, bring in a toy or doll cherished by the child. Use this toy during medical play.

Encourage expression:

Once the IV has been placed, talk to your child about the experience.



Relatable Medical Resources for Little Minds

Use this list of books, shows and toys to make medical journeys feel more familiar

Books, shows and toys centered around hospital experiences can offer children a comforting bridge between the familiar and unknown. Through engaging stories and playful scenarios, you can help children demystify a medical procedure like an IV, and turn potential anxieties into relatable adventures.

By seeing or enacting medical events in a safe, imaginative context, children can approach actual procedures with greater understanding and confidence.

Below is a curated list of books, shows and toys centered around hospital experiences. As always, preview any content you provide your child to ensure it's age appropriate and you are ready to support your child with any questions or concerns they may have.

Children's Books

“Curious George Goes to the Hospital” by Marget and H.A. Rey

“Franklin Goes to the Hospital” by Paulette Bougeois and Brenda Clark

“Clifford Visits the Hospital” by Norman Bridwell

“A Visit to the Sesame Street Hospital” by Deborah Hautzig and Tom Cooke

“The Berenstain Bears Go to the Doctor” by Stan and Jan Berenstain

“Loins Aren’t Scared of Shots” by Marilyn Singe

Children's Shows

Doc McStuffins - A show centered around a young girl who can fix toys

Arthur Episode: Arthur’s Knee - Arthur falls at the playground and is worried about getting stitches

Octonauts Episode: The Cone Snail - Pseo must perform an operation to remove a cone snail that has latched onto Dash’s flipper

Curious George Episode: Curious George Goes to the Hospital - George swallows a puzzle piece and has to go to the hospital

Caillou Episode: Caillou Visits the Doctor - Caillou is nervous about his upcoming doctor’s check-up

Children's Toys

IV Bag Pretend Play Set - Create or purchase a pretend IV bag, tube and port to role play IV care.

Doctor’s Kit Play Set - Role play using stethoscopes, reflex hammers, syringes and thermometers

Mobile Medical Station Set - Role play using a pulse machine, surgical tools and a bedside medical station

STEM Science Lab Human Body Kit - From bones to organs help children understand the anatomy of their body

Human Body Anatomy Doll - Use a puzzle doll with plush stuffed organs to help children understand their body and role play doctor

A Kinder Approach with Pediatric Friendly IV Technology

Help treat pain and infection with advanced pediatric IV dressings and vascular access line guards

When it comes to young children, standard medical technology often falls short. Children's skin is sensitive and delicate⁹, differing from adults in structure and function. Additionally, with their innate desire to move, play and explore, there is an increased risk of discomfort and IV line contamination.

Enter Covalon's IV technology. Recognizing the specific needs of pediatric care, Covalon is championing the development of more pediatric friendly IV technology. The primary aim is to ensure that kids receive not only the best care, but also experience the least amount of distress and discomfort during their medical journeys.



*Baby skin is **20-30% thinner** and less resilient than adult skin¹⁰*

Healing Shouldn't Hurt: *Apology-Free IV Care*

Explore a range of vascular access solutions designed for patient protection and made with gentle compassion.



IV Clear

Protect patients from Catheter Related Bloodstream Infections with **IV Clear** - the world's only dual antimicrobial IV dressing*.



CovaClear IV

Help reduce Medical Adhesive Related Skin Injury before it happens with **CovaClear IV** - the skin sensitive dressing.



VALGuard

Protect from gross contamination with **VALGuard** - the world's only vascular access line-guard.

*Not for use on premature infants or infants under two months of age.

Seamless Infection Defense within the Dressing

Shield against infections without harming the skin using an evenly woven application of chlorhexidine not a concentrated spot.

Undisturbed Healing

Simplify site monitoring and minimize dressing changes with clear and total dressing transparency.

Atraumatic Adhesion

Provide secure, yet tender protection using soft silicone made to gently bond with the microcontours of the skin.

Apology-free Removal

Bid farewell to adhesive removers, trauma and tears with dressings that hold tight but peel off right using a gentle release design.

Try one of our vascular access solutions today!

Childhood Uninterrupted:

Kids just want to be kids

That means fewer infections, less trauma and more freedom.

IV care for children brings both unique challenges and opportunities.

Whether it's the tiniest infants in the NICU or older children in the PICU, all young patients share a natural desire to move, play and explore¹.

However, in unfamiliar settings, surrounded by unknown faces and medical devices touching their sensitive skin, hospital care can become overwhelming. For children, both their curiosity and lack of understanding can lead to pulled IV lines and an increased risk of IV contamination.



At the end of the day, kids just want to be kids. They should be able to play freely without the fear of infection, pain or distractions from an uncomfortable IV dressing.

With the right resources, education and child-centric IV technology, the challenges of pediatric IV care can be can feel more manageable. All children deserve the best care without compromising their comfort or safety.

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