

## Children's nurse

Child nursing involves everything from nursing a sick newborn to an adolescent road accident victim. You'll need to consider the care and support needed by the wider family, including parents and carers.

### Why choose children's nursing

There are many reasons why you should consider a career as a children's nurse. It offers you the chance to make a difference, a high degree of flexibility and a career with excellent employment prospects.

*"To be able to go into that situation and be able to help calm the child down and assure the parent that everything was ok was incredible." Ewout, a student children's nurse.*

*Read Ewout's story in full [1]*



### Working life

Nursing a child is not just a question of caring for a small adult. Children have very specific health needs and you need to understand how a healthy child develops towards adulthood to minimise the impact of illness. This involves working in closely with the parents or guardians.

Communication is also factor when treating children. Adults can express their feelings and can identify the severity and nature of pain. A child may not be able to communicate this in such detail and the nurse needs to interpret child's behaviour and reactions. Children's nurses need to be able to spot when a child's health takes a turn for the worse, which can often happen rapidly.

A child's care takes place in a range of settings including hospitals, day care centres, clinics and in the community such as child's home

Children's nurses are part of multidisciplinary teams that look after patients. You will be at the centre of teams that include doctors, hospital play staff, healthcare assistants, newborn hearing screeners, psychologists and social workers.



*'I've been well guided and supported in my career choices to date, and the job I now do is one-of-a-kind'. Katie Ryan, practice educator*

[Read Katie's story \[2\]](#)

## **Entry requirements**

To become an children's nurse the main route is through a degree course at university. Entry requirements for these courses can vary depending on where and how you'd like to study so it's important to check with universities. You can find a child nursing courses at the bottom of this page.

Typically you'll need a minimum of five GCSEs at grade 4/C or above, possibly in English language or literature and a science subject, plus two A levels or equivalent level 3 qualifications for an undergraduate degree. Some universities may ask for three A levels or equivalent. If you already have a degree, you might be able to study for a postgraduate qualification.

There are other routes into child nursing such as nurse degree apprenticeships and nursing associate apprenticeships.

## **New annual payments**

You'll be entitled to receive at least £5,000 a year towards your studies while at university. Your personal circumstances may mean you could receive more. And the good news? You'll never have to pay it back.

## Other routes into children's nursing

Nursing degree apprenticeships are available with some employers and numbers are expected to continue to grow. Increasing opportunities to apply for nursing associate apprenticeships [3] are also expected. This can lead to nursing degrees or nurse degree apprenticeships.

## Must have skills

Don't forget - academic qualifications aren't everything. Communication and interpersonal skills are crucial, as well as strong judgement, be able to teach advise and manage people.

If you're applying for a role either directly in the NHS or a university course, you'll be asked to show how you think the values of the NHS Constitution [4] apply in your everyday work.

## Training and career development

Once you have qualified as a children's nurse, there are a wide range of opportunities. You could specialise in a certain field such as health visiting or school nursing. You may want to move into management, teaching or clinical research.

## Pay and benefits

Your standard working week will be around 37.5 hours on shift pattern which can include nights, early starts, evenings, weekends and bank holidays. As a child nurse, you'll be paid on the Agenda for Change (AFC) pay system [5], typically starting at band 5.

You'll also have access to our generous pension scheme and health service discounts, as well as 27 days of annual leave plus bank holidays.

- [Live vacancies](#) Expand / collapse
  - [View Vacancy \[6\]](#)

### Paediatric Nurse

Whiteley, PO8 8DL

- **Salary:**  
£26.00 per hour
- **Type:**  
Bank
-

**Employer:**

Partnering Health

- View Vacancy
- View Vacancy [7]

**Paediatric Nurse**

Milton Keynes, MK8 0LW

■

**Salary:**

Depending on experience

■

**Type:**

Permanent

■

**Employer:**

Central Advertising - Other

- View Vacancy
- View Vacancy [8]

**Paediatric Nurse**

Tunbridge Wells, TN3 0RD

■

**Salary:**

Band 5

■

**Type:**

Permanent

■

**Employer:**

Spire Healthcare Ltd

- View Vacancy
- View Vacancy [9]

## **Paediatric Nurse**

University Hospital Lewisham, London, SE13 6LH

- 

### **Salary:**

£24,907 - £30,615 per annum plus HCAS

- 

### **Type:**

Permanent

- 

### **Employer:**

Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust

- [View Vacancy](#)

- [View Vacancy \[10\]](#)

## **Flexibank Paediatric Nurse**

Gravesend, DA11 7HQ

- 

### **Salary:**

£27826.00 to £34222.00 a year

- 

### **Type:**

Bank

- 

### **Employer:**

Central Advertising - Social Enterprises

- [View Vacancy](#)

- [View Vacancy \[11\]](#)

## **Registered Nurse/Paediatric Nurse**

Barnstaple, EX31 4JB

-

**Salary:**

£24,907 - £30,615 per annum pro rata



**Type:**

Fixed term



**Employer:**

Northern Devon Healthcare Trust

- [View Vacancy](#)



Expand / collapse

Find your course to become a children's nurse

Region

Type of qualification

Full or part time

Displaying 1 - 5 of 85 matches

## **BNursing (Hons) Children's Nursing**

Bangor, University of Wales

[View course](#) Opens in a new window

[12]

Region **Wales**

Type of course  
**Undergraduate**

Full or part time  
**Full time**

Duration  
**3 years**

Contact details  
[admissions@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@bangor.ac.uk)

[13] **01248 383717**

Course webpage <https://www.bangor.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/B732-Childrens-Nursing> [12]

Admissions address

Bangor  
Gwynedd  
LL57 2EF

Course webpage <https://www.bangor.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/B732-Childrens-Nursing> [12]

## **BSc (Hons) Nursing (Child Health)**

Plymouth University

View course [Opens in a new window](#)  
[14]

Region **South West**

Type of course  
**Undergraduate**

Full or part time  
**Full time**

Duration  
**3 years**

Contact details  
[admissions@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@plymouth.ac.uk) [15] **01752 585858**

Course webpage <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/bsc-nursing-child-health-2> [14]

Admissions address

001 Hepworth House  
Drake Circus  
Plymouth  
PL4 8AA

Course webpage <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/bsc-nursing-child-health-2> [14]

## **BSc (Hons) Nursing Studies (Child)**

Teesside University

View course [Opens in a new window](#)  
[16]

## Region **North East**

Type of course  
**Undergraduate**

Full or part time  
**Full time**

Duration  
**3 years**

Contact details  
shlsadmissions@tees.ac.uk [17] **01642 384110**

Course webpage  
[http://www.tees.ac.uk/undergraduate\\_courses/Nursing\\_Midwifery\\_&\\_Health\\_Professio...](http://www.tees.ac.uk/undergraduate_courses/Nursing_Midwifery_&_Health_Professio...) [18]

Admissions address

Middlesbrough  
Tees Valley  
TS1 3BA

Course webpage  
[http://www.tees.ac.uk/undergraduate\\_courses/Nursing\\_Midwifery\\_&\\_Health\\_Professio...](http://www.tees.ac.uk/undergraduate_courses/Nursing_Midwifery_&_Health_Professio...) [18]

## **Bachelor of Nursing (Hons) (Child Health)**

South Wales, University of

View course Opens in a new window  
[19]

## Region **Wales**

Type of course  
**Undergraduate**

Full or part time  
**Full time**

Duration  
**3 years**

Contact details  
enquiries@southwales.ac.uk [20] **03455 76 77 78**

Course webpage <https://www.southwales.ac.uk/courses/bachelor-of-nursing-honschild-health/> [19]

Admissions address



Pontypridd  
CF37 1DL

Course webpage <https://www.southwales.ac.uk/courses/bachelor-of-nursing-honschild-health/> [19]

## **BSc (Hons) Nursing (Children)**

UCLan, University of Central Lancashire

View course [Opens in a new window](#)  
[21]

Region **North West**

Type of course  
**Undergraduate**

Full or part time  
**Full time**

Duration  
**3 years**

Contact details  
[cenquiries@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:cenquiries@uclan.ac.uk) [22] **01772 892400**

Course webpage [http://www.uclan.ac.uk/courses/bsc\\_hons\\_pre\\_registration\\_nursing\\_child.php](http://www.uclan.ac.uk/courses/bsc_hons_pre_registration_nursing_child.php) [21]

Admissions address

Preston  
Lancashire  
PR1 2HE

Course webpage [http://www.uclan.ac.uk/courses/bsc\\_hons\\_pre\\_registration\\_nursing\\_child.php](http://www.uclan.ac.uk/courses/bsc_hons_pre_registration_nursing_child.php) [21]

◦ [Load more](#) [23]

### **Interested in nursing?**

We'll send you free, expert advice on starting a nursing career.

[Let's go](#) [24]

### **Other roles that may interest you**

- [Neonatal nurse](#) [25]
- [Health play staff](#) [26]

- Health visitor [27]
- Healthcare assistant [28]

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**Source URL:** <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/roles-nursing/childrens-nurse>

### Links

- [1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/roles-nursing/childrens-nurse/real-life-story-ewout-van-sabben>
- [2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/roles-nursing/childrens-nurse/real-life-story-katie-ryan>
- [3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/roles-nursing/nursing-associate>
- [4] [https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#NHS\\_Constitution](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#NHS_Constitution)
- [5] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/working-health/working-nhs/nhs-pay-and-benefits/agenda-change-pay-rates>
- [6] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916389232>
- [7] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916395261>
- [8] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916385771>
- [9] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916408128>
- [10] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916405858>
- [11] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916405611>
- [12] <https://www.bangor.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/B732-Childrens-Nursing>
- [13] [mailto: admissions@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@bangor.ac.uk)
- [14] <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/bsc-nursing-child-health-2>
- [15] [mailto: admissions@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@plymouth.ac.uk)
- [16] [http://www.tees.ac.uk/undergraduate\\_courses/Nursing\\_Midwifery\\_&\\_Health\\_Professions/BSc\\_\(Hons\)\\_Nursing\\_Stu](http://www.tees.ac.uk/undergraduate_courses/Nursing_Midwifery_&_Health_Professions/BSc_(Hons)_Nursing_Stu)
- [17] [mailto: shlsadmissions@tees.ac.uk](mailto:shlsadmissions@tees.ac.uk)
- [18] [http://www.tees.ac.uk/undergraduate\\_courses/Nursing\\_Midwifery\\_&\\_Health\\_Professions/BSc\\_\(Hons\)\\_Nursing](http://www.tees.ac.uk/undergraduate_courses/Nursing_Midwifery_&_Health_Professions/BSc_(Hons)_Nursing)
- [19] <https://www.southwales.ac.uk/courses/bachelor-of-nursing-honschild-health/>
- [20] [mailto: enquiries@southwales.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@southwales.ac.uk)
- [21] [http://www.uclan.ac.uk/courses/bsc\\_hons\\_pre\\_registration\\_nursing\\_child.php](http://www.uclan.ac.uk/courses/bsc_hons_pre_registration_nursing_child.php)
- [22] [mailto: cenquiries@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:cenquiries@uclan.ac.uk)
- [23] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/printpdf/296?page=1>
- [24] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/nursing-registration>
- [25] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/roles-nursing/neonatal-nurse>
- [26] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/wider-healthcare-team/roles-wider-healthcare-team/corporate-services/health-play-staff>
- [27] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/roles-public-health/health-visitor>
- [28] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-support-worker/roles-healthcare-support-worker/healthcare-assistant>