

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.



get started

Discover how to become a nurse

From learning about the roles and benefits to choosing the best route in.

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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.

Ewout Van Sabben

Student Children's Nurse

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.

Read Ewout'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, such a T level or BTEC 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.

Annual payments

If you're eligible, you'll 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. Find out more. [3]

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 [4] 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 [5] 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 [6], 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.

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**Find your
course to
become a
children's nurse**

Region

- Any -

Type of qualification

- Any -

Full or part time

- Any -

Search

Displaying 16 - 20 of 128 matches

Nursing with Registration (Child Nursing)

De Montfort University

View course [7] Opens in a new window

- Qualification
 - Bachelor of Science (with Honours) - BSc (Hons)
- Study mode
 - Full-time
- Duration of the course
 - 3 Years
- Leading to a career in
 - Nursing (Children/ Paediatric)
- Contact details
 - admissions@dmu.ac.uk [8]
 - 0116 2078443
- Region
 - East Midlands
- Admissions address
 - The Gateway
 - Leicester
 - LE1 9BH
 - England

Children's and Young People's Nursing Practice

University of Sunderland

View course [9] Opens in a new window

- Qualification
 - Bachelor of Science - BSc
- Study mode
 - Full-time
- Duration of the course
 - 3 Years
- Leading to a career in
 - Nursing (Children/ Paediatric)
- Contact details
 - student.help@ Sunderland.ac.uk [10]
 - 0191 515 3000
- Region

North East
Admissions address
Chester Road
Sunderland
SR1 3SD
England

Nursing Studies Hons (Child)

Glasgow Caledonian University

View course [11] Opens in a new window

- Qualification
 - Bachelor of Science (with Honours) - BSc (Hons)
- Study mode
 - Full-time
- Duration of the course
 - 4 Years
- Leading to a career in
 - Nursing (Children/ Paediatric)
- Contact details
 - studentenquiries@gcu.ac.uk [12]
 - 0141 331 8630
- Region
 - Scotland
- Admissions address
 - Cowcaddens Road
 - Glasgow
 - G4 0BA
 - United Kingdom

Nursing (Child)

University of Winchester

View course [13] Opens in a new window

- Qualification
 - Bachelor of Nursing (with Honours) - BN (Hons)
- Study mode
 - Full-time
- Duration of the course
 - 3 Years
- Leading to a career in
 - Nursing (Children/ Paediatric)
- Contact details
 - course.enquiries@winchester.ac.uk [14]
 - +44 (0)1962 827234
- Region
 - South East
- Admissions address
 - Sparkford Road
 - Winchester

Children's Nursing

London South Bank University

View course [15] Opens in a new window

- Qualification
Master of Science - MSc (PG)
- Study mode
Full-time
- Duration of the course
2 Years
- Leading to a career in
Nursing (Children/ Paediatric)
- Contact details
study@lsbu.ac.uk [16]
0207 815 7500
- Region
London
- Admissions address
103 Borough Road
London
SE1 0AA
United Kingdom
- Load more Load more results [17]

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Live vacancies

If you cannot find a vacancy in your area, visit NHS Jobs [18] to search for more vacancies.

Find a vacancy

Enter your location or postcode

Show results within

Other roles that may interest you

- Neonatal nurse [19]
- Health play staff [20]
- Health visitor [21]
- Healthcare assistant [22]

Links

- [1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/we-are-the-nhs/registration?career=nursing>
- [2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/roles-nursing/childrens-nurse/real-life-story-ewout-van-sabben> [3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/study-and-training/considering-or-university/financial-support-university> [4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/roles-nursing/nursing-associate> [5] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#NHS_Constitution
- [6] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/working-health/working-nhs/nhs-pay-and-benefits/agenda-change-pay-rates> [7] <https://www.dmu.ac.uk/study/courses/undergraduate-courses/nursing-with-registration-child-nursing.aspx> [8] [mailto: admissions@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@dmu.ac.uk) [9] <https://www.sunderland.ac.uk/study/nursing-midwifery/children-young-people-nursing/> [10] [mailto: student.help@ Sunderland.ac.uk](mailto:student.help@ Sunderland.ac.uk)
- [11] [https://www.gcu.ac.uk/study/courses/details/index.php/P02881-1FTA-1718/Nursing_Studies_\(Child\)?utm_source=XXXX&utm_medium=web&utm_campaign=courselisting](https://www.gcu.ac.uk/study/courses/details/index.php/P02881-1FTA-1718/Nursing_Studies_(Child)?utm_source=XXXX&utm_medium=web&utm_campaign=courselisting)
- [12] [mailto: studentenquiries@ gcu.ac.uk](mailto:studentenquiries@ gcu.ac.uk) [13] <https://www.winchester.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/bnhons-nursing-child/> [14] [mailto: course.enquiries@ winchester.ac.uk](mailto:course.enquiries@ winchester.ac.uk) [15] <https://www.lsbu.ac.uk/courses/course-finder/childrens-nursing-pre-registration-pgdip> [16] [mailto: study@lsbu.ac.uk](mailto:study@lsbu.ac.uk)
- [17] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/printpdf/296?page=4> [18] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/>
- [19] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/roles-nursing/neonatal-nurse>
- [20] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/wider-healthcare-team/roles-wider-healthcare-team/corporate-services/health-play-staff/health-play-staff> [21] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/roles-public-health/health-visitor> [22] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-support-worker/roles-healthcare-support-worker/healthcare-assistant>