

How to Succeed in Your Pediatrics Core Clinical Experience

Top 10 Tips

1. Arrive on time. Better – be early!
2. Be engaged. Be present. We can tell when you are interested.
3. Be proactive. Follow through on tasks. Ask the team how you can help.
4. Take full ownership of your patients. Know everything there is to know about them. Admit what you don't know, and seek out answers yourself by consulting the literature.
5. Get to know the residents and fellows! Run your plans by them. They are there to help, but you have to remember to ask.
6. Be ready to present a plan for your patients. It doesn't matter if your plan isn't 100% correct – don't worry, we won't let you enact a bad plan! The important thing is being willing to have an opinion. We care more about the process and your ability to demonstrate clinical reasoning than we do about you getting everything right.
7. When you don't know, say so. Knowing your limits is a valuable skill.
8. Take advantage of all learning opportunities. Ask to join new admits. Shadow whatever you can. Do as many physical exams as possible. Stay late if there are interesting things happening. Say yes to everything, even if you don't really feel like doing it – you'll be better for it in the long run.
9. The Sakai course page contains a lot of resources, and we've worked hard to make the documentation robust. You can find rounding tips, reading lists, presentation examples, site descriptions, and more. Make sure to read what's there!
10. Don't wait until the last day to ask your preceptors to grade your written H&P or evaluate your oral case presentation. Try to distribute the teaching burden evenly among the team (e.g., don't ask the same faculty member to do your midterm feedback, an H&P, and your MedHub eval!)

BONUS TIP: Four weeks in Pediatrics isn't enough. We have over 30 electives, so come back for more!