



HealthCare
KENTUCKY CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL

My MRE Experience





01 | GET READY

Today I am going to Kentucky Children's Hospital to get an MRE. An MRE scan will help the doctors learn more about my body. This scan uses the MRI machine, which is a big camera.



02 | ARRIVE

I arrive at the hospital with my caregiver. We check in for my visit. I get a bracelet to wear while I am at the hospital. It has my name and birthday on it.



03 | CHECK IN

Next, we will walk to the radiology unit and check in with the clerk. I get to pick where to sit in the waiting room. My caregiver will sit next to me and answer questions on an iPad.



04 | CHANGE CLOTHES

An MRI tech will take us to a dressing room. Here, we will change into hospital gowns. There is a locker for our clothes and other items. The tech will make sure that we do not have any metal, like jewelry, on our bodies.



05 | CHECK MY HEIGHT

Next, someone will check my height and weight. The nurse will put special lotion on parts of my arms and hands. This lotion makes my skin feel sleepy and numb.



06 | DRINK

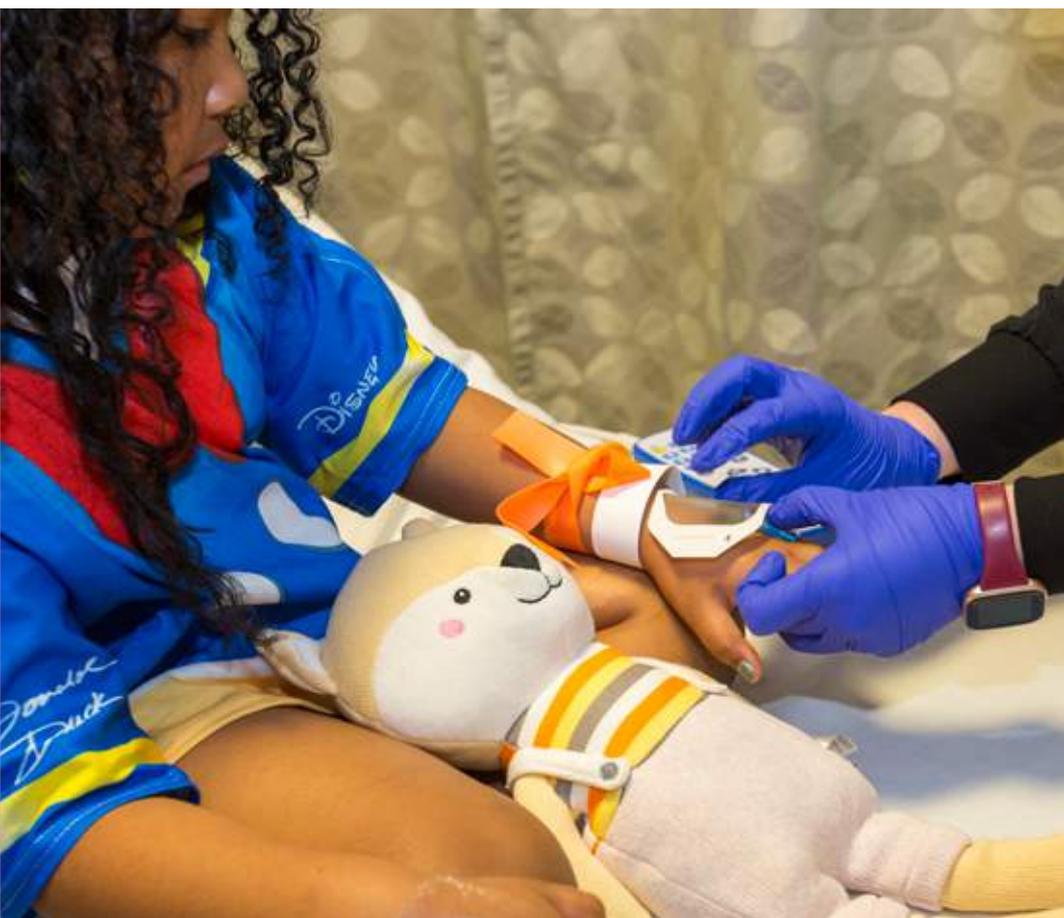
Now I will drink a juice called contrast. This juice will help the MRI take clear pictures for the doctors. Some kids say the juice tastes like yellow Gatorade or Sprite.



07 | TAKE MEDICINE

The nurse will put a tiny tube called an IV into my veins. I need an IV to get medicine during my pictures. Veins carry blood throughout my body. Having a tiny tube in my veins will help get the medicine into my body.

To put in an IV, first, the nurse will take off my numbing lotion. My skin should be sleepy now. Next, the nurse will tie a stretchy rubber band around my arm, which gives my arm a tight squeeze. It helps the nurse see my veins, which appear as blue lines.



08 | GET MY IV

The nurse will then clean off my skin with a cold wipe. Next the nurse may use cold numbing spray. This spray makes my skin more sleepy and numb. If the spray feels too cold on my skin, I do not have to use it. Then the nurse will put the IV in my vein. There is a small needle to get the IV in the right place. I will feel a push and a pinch. Once the tube is in the right place the nurse will throw away the needle. The nurse will use stickers to keep my tiny tube in the right place until my pictures are done. I may feel sore where the IV is, but I know there are no more needles.



09 | THE MRI ROOM

Now it is time to go to the MRI room to get my pictures. My caregiver might come with me. The camera looks like a big donut. The MRI tech will help me lie on the bed. I will get a pillow and blankets to help me feel comfortable.



10 | LAY DOWN

Before I get my pictures, the MRI tech will lay a piece of plastic - called a coil - on my belly. This helps tell the camera where to take pictures.

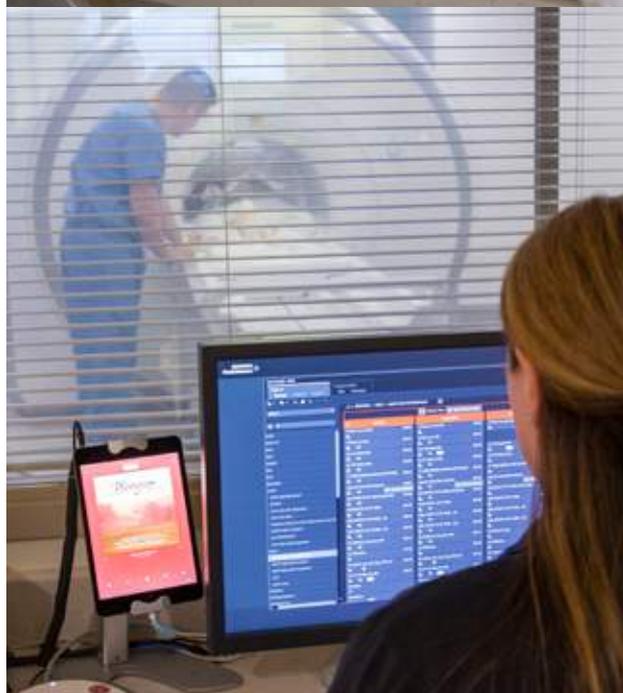
11 | HEADPHONES

Because the MRI machine makes loud noises, I will get to wear headphones and listen to music. I even get to choose my own music. Some kids say the MRI noises sound like loud beeps, knocks and clicks.



12 | TAKE PICTURES

The MRI tech will sit right outside the room during my pictures, but I am never alone. The tech will remind me that they can always hear me. And if I need help, I can squeeze a special ball I get to hold while the pictures are being taken.





13 | BE STILL

During my pictures, the bed will move in and out of the camera. The camera does not touch or hurt me. My job is to lay still so that my pictures are clear. When my pictures are halfway done, the nurse will give me some medicine through my IV. The medicine does not hurt going into the IV but may make my tummy feel upset. After I get the medicine, I will get more pictures taken in the camera. I will be asked to hold my breath a few times.

14 | WAIT

My pictures will last about an hour – that is about as long as two TV shows. In this hour, the doctors will get all the pictures they need to learn about my body.



15 | ALL FINISHED

When my pictures are done, the nurse will take out my IV and give me a bandage. I am done. I can change into my own clothes and go home.





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