

How to encourage your child to follow their dreams of becoming a nurse

Nursing offers a variety of career options and advantages over other potential careers. Once your child becomes interested in nursing, there's no telling whether your child could become an ER nurse, a school nurse, or even a hospital CEO! Above all, nursing is about helping people. You can be proud that your child is interested in pursuing a challenging and rewarding career that is worth encouraging. Here are some things you can do to help your child understand what a career in nursing is and keep them on the path to a future in healthcare.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Introduce them to the school nurse, church nurse, friend or family member in nursing. For most young children, the school nurse, church nurse or even a friend or family member may be the first healthcare professional that they encounter on a regular basis. Have them talk to your child about what they do and why they became a nurse.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Talk to your children about the classes they are taking. Help them understand how math and science apply to nursing.

Find engaging learning opportunities. Look for career fairs or other programs that might provide hands-on demonstrations of nursing tools, activities and other information.

Meet with a guidance counselor. Before high school, meet with a counselor to help your child map out a path to

HIGH SCHOOL

Stay on track. Continue to meet regularly with your child and their school counselor to make sure they are enrolled in all prerequisite courses.

Choose a college. Begin looking into nursing schools and helping your child with the application process.

Gain experience. Encourage them to take advantage of hands-on volunteer or certification opportunities that are available to them to get ahead.

