MRI-Awake

My Hospital Story

Boston Children's Hospital

June 2023
I’m getting ready for my MRI at Boston Children’s Hospital. An MRI is a big camera that will take pictures to help my doctors learn more about my body.
First, we’ll walk into the hospital. I might put on a mask.
Then, we’ll take the Main Elevators to the 2nd floor and follow the signs to the MRI waiting area.
Next, we’ll walk to the waiting room and go to the front desk.
We’ll talk to the person at the desk. They’ll give me a bracelet with my name.
Next, we’ll wait until my name is called. I can sit and play quietly while I wait.
When it’s my turn, a clinical assistant will call my name.
Next, I’ll stand on a scale to measure how much I weigh.
I’ll walk to a new room and change into hospital pajamas.
I might need a special medicine called contrast to help the doctors see my pictures.

If I need contrast, I will get an IV. An IV is a small, bendy straw that will give my body the contrast.
I can choose to listen to music or watch a movie during my MRI.
Next, we’ll walk to a new room.

I’ll turn my body slowly in front of a tall light. When the light is green, I can go into the next room.
I will go to the MRI room. The MRI is a big camera that will take my picture. The MRI doesn’t touch me.
Next, I will lay on the bed. The MRI technologist will put a soft belt and blanket on me to keep my body safe.
The MRI makes noises when it takes pictures.

I can wear special headphones so the noises aren’t too loud. I can listen to my movie through these headphones.
I might get special goggles to watch my movie or I will watch on a TV screen.
It’s important to keep my body very still while the MRI takes my pictures. It may take a while for the camera to get all the pictures my doctors need.
During my MRI, I can talk to the MRI technologist. I can let them know how I’m feeling or if I need something.
The MRI technologist will let me know when the MRI is done taking my pictures.
I’m all done with my MRI.

Everyone will be so proud of me!
Developed by:

Autism Spectrum Center & Child Life Services