A Healing Environment

Every facet of Children’s Pavilion has been designed to respect the needs, privacy, and dignity of our patients as they undertake very important therapeutic work. Our inpatient and outpatient spaces offer calm and relaxation, as well as opportunities for creative exploration, learning, and development.

Atrium and Lobby

Healing will begin the moment our patients and families enter the doors of Children’s Pavilion. The first floor is not only home to a full-service café, but it is also the entry point for the important work that will take place on our inpatient floors, which are accessed through a discreet elevator entrance off the atrium lobby. To keep our hospitalized patients safe at all times, families visiting the inpatient floors will pass through a safety screening area as they enter. The first floor indoor and outdoor spaces also introduce visitors to CHKD’s use of art to enhance our environment of healing.

14th Floor

Children need time to play, and regular exercise is proven to reduce stress, elevate mood, and contribute to a child’s overall sense of well-being. The Pavilion’s top floor features our rooftop recreation area, which offers fresh air, sunlight, and a chance for children to play safely outside, as well as expansive views of downtown Norfolk and the Elizabeth River. Here, therapy can occur while playing basketball on our outdoor court, dribbling a soccer ball on the grassy turf area, or enjoying a game of four square. Patients can also play giant puzzle games and benefit from horticulture therapy using rolling planters that will arrive soon.

Children in photos throughout this publication are not actual patients.
13th Floor
One of our main patient floors, the 13th floor, features 12 inpatient beds and some of our most unique mental health inpatient services, plus recreation and creative expression spaces.

Indoor Gym
Exercise and recreational therapy will be provided in our two-story indoor recreation space, which includes a half-court basketball area, exercise studio, and space to accommodate many types of indoor activities such as mind-body practices like yoga.

Music Therapy Room and Recording Studio
The ability to appreciate music, interact with it, and even to perform will be part of the therapeutic experience. Music therapy can help our patients address physical, emotional, cognitive, and social needs, providing avenues for communication that can be helpful to those who find it difficult to express themselves. This space features a soundproof individual practice and recording studio, allowing our patients to capture their expressions of music, lyrics, poetry, or the spoken word.

Art Therapy Room
In our art therapy room, patients of all ages can express themselves through the visual arts and the creative process. Through drawing, painting, collage, coloring, or sculpting, art helps children and adolescents communicate, explore their emotions, improve self-esteem, relieve stress, and reduce symptoms of anxiety and depression. Display cases line the hallway so that patient artwork can be appreciated by others. A special art installation can be found in this room. As a companion to the three rotating colorful discs in the main lobby, our inpatients will experience the soothing creativity of Venezuelan artist Manuel Mérida's green Circles which rotates on a motor to produce infinite, unpredictable moments of beauty as the green paint pigment cascades in perpetual motion.
13th Floor
Children’s Pavilion has been designed to make collaborative care and family participation in treatment as easy and comfortable as possible. Each inpatient floor – the 11th, 12th, and 13th floors – hosts a variety of unique spaces to encourage healing.

Family Lounge
Spectacular views from this space provide parents with a place of respite while their children are busy in treatment. With a refreshment center and comfortable seating, this is a place where parents can take a break, catch up on phone calls or emails, and commune with each other while staying close to their children while they’re in the hospital.

Sensory Room
Multisensory environments provide a place where patients can benefit from a variety of activities that fully engage their senses. Sensory rooms can calm and relax children or stimulate exploration, learning, and development. This environment also helps individuals with sensory processing disorders, cognitive issues, learning disabilities, autism, and ADHD to process the world around them.

Group Therapy, Dining, and Gathering Spaces
Our mental health patients will spend much of their time outside of their rooms engaging in individual and group therapy sessions, continuing their schoolwork with on-site teachers, and engaging in recreation and creative expression. Several areas on each inpatient floor are dedicated to these activities.

Wall Nooks
Recessed nooks built into walls throughout the inpatient space give children a cozy spot to curl up with a good book or enjoy a moment of quiet amid the activity that surrounds them.

Team Room
A large room with a view of the gathering space promotes collaboration among all members of the patient’s care team.
Warm wood tones, pops of color, and calming wall graphics are incorporated into patient rooms to nurture young minds.

Furniture is child-friendly, comfortable, and colorful.

Patients have control of a color-changing light above their bed.

Every room has storage spaces for the patient’s belongings and a built-in desk for play or schoolwork.

A self-soothing textured wall element is located beside each patient’s bed for sensory input.

All rooms include a large window with spectacular views and abundant natural light.

All inpatient rooms in Children’s Pavilion have been carefully designed for safety and comfort.

Admitting Patients
Many inpatient admissions to Children’s Pavilion will begin in the emergency department at CHKD’s main hospital, just a few hundred yards away. When our mental health team determines that a child needs inpatient care, the patient is medically cleared and an available bed at Children’s Pavilion is assigned. We will transfer patients for admission in a new “safe car” through ambulance bays that connect to a bank of private elevators on the first floor. Patients will not pass through any public areas of the building during this process.

Our Inpatient Rooms
The 11th, 12th, and 13th floors of Children’s Pavilion host a total of 60 inpatient rooms. The 11th and 12th floors accommodate 24 rooms each, and the 13th floor includes 12 inpatient rooms. Eight of the beds on the 13th floor are for children who have a primary psychiatric condition and a secondary medical condition, like diabetes or an eating disorder, that will require ongoing medical care while the child is receiving mental health care. Four beds are for children who have a primary psychiatric diagnosis along with a neurodevelopmental condition, like autism. With only a handful of facilities in the U.S. offering these services, CHKD is addressing an extraordinary need.

The 10th floor is shelled space that can accommodate another 24 inpatient beds if the need arises to expand our programs.

Keeping Patients Safe
Every facet of our patient rooms has been designed for the unique safety needs of children undergoing acute mental health treatment. Specially designed door handles, hinges, sprinkler heads, weighted venting system, and window blinds behind glass minimize patients’ risk of self-harm. Window glass and drywall are impact-resistant, and “pick-proof” caulk is used so everything stays in place. In addition, all movable furniture is filled with sand to make it ultra-heavy and resistant to being lifted.

Beside the door to every room is a sidelight window that allows for unobstructed views into the room and serves as an auxiliary door that opens outward should staff need to gain entry by alternate means. Each private restroom has hallway entry and an exterior signal light that allows staff to see when the space is in use. Special safety features of bathrooms include ligature-resistant fixtures such as a breakaway shower curtain, rubberized towel hooks, and shatterproof mirrors, plus waterproofing in the walls and whole-room water shutoffs in case of flooding.

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Outpatient Services for All Children

Children’s Pavilion provides a setting that integrates mental health care with other routine medical services so that patients feel as comfortable seeking mental health treatment as they do visiting their pediatrician for checkups or their sports medicine physician for an injury on the field. Children’s Pavilion is also home to a state-of-the-art conference center.

2nd Floor
This floor is home to our new conference center, which provides meeting space for professional and community education and collaboration. The space can be used for one large gathering or divided into three smaller or two mid-sized meeting rooms. Plans for an outpatient pharmacy are also in progress for this floor.

4th Floor
General Academic Pediatrics, located on the 4th floor, provides primary care pediatrics with a focus on the physical, emotional, educational, and social needs of children and their families. Services include routine care, well visits, sick visits, vaccinations, and coordination of care for underserved families and patients with complex medical needs.

5th Floor
On the 5th floor, our sports medicine program offers clinic visits with sports medicine specialists for diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up of sports injuries, concussion care, nutrition and hydration assessment, and more. Outpatient lab and radiology services are also offered on this floor.

9th Floor
The 9th floor is devoted to outpatient mental health services, including our full-day partial hospitalization program for children who need intensive treatment but are able to spend nights and weekends at home.

Additional unoccupied spaces are maintained throughout the building to allow us to grow with the needs of the patients we serve.

Children’s Hospital of The King’s Daughters
Massachusetts artist Joe Wardwell created a mural in the parking garage entrance foyer layering iconic local images of the Virginia Beach oceanfront with CHKD’s new mission statement embedded within vivid colors, greeting every patient and guest with CHKD’s promise to provide Health, Healing, and Hope for All Children.

Our 9th floor features an installation of glass by Brooklyn-based artist Leo Tecosky that uses the imagery of graffiti to portray concepts such as health, hope, light, wisdom, and equality.

Spanish sculptor David Rodriguez Caballero created Ori, a large exterior sculpture beautifully visible from the lower atrium, for CHKD. His piece, reminiscent of origami, reminds us that out of the ordinary can come something extraordinary. Whether you see a bird in flight or a plane about to glide, Caballero wants us to think of the journey that our patients are on when they enter our facility.

Seattle glass artist Ann Gardner created and installed the atrium’s multicolored glass pendants. Titled New Day, her work hangs from seven oval rings representing the days of the week. Two sections burst with colors to represent the sunrise and moonrise. Gardner’s piece was designed to remind us and our patients that change and renewal are constant forces in life, and every day can be the start of a new day.

Sculptor Lindy Lee’s One Bright Pearl will grace the circular drive in front of our building. The large metal globe will have lights shining through patterns cut into its surface, making a beautiful presentation, especially at night. Just as a pearl is created from an injury within an oyster, we have hope that every child who enters our facility experiencing pain, suffering, or trauma can emerge as a bright pearl.

Found on the 4th floor in our General Academic Pediatrics practice is a special work of art by Abigail Elliott, a student at the Governor’s School for the Arts in Norfolk. She was inspired to express the various states of mental wellness in her mixed-media creation, titled Walking Through Thoughts.

Virginia Beach sculptor Richard Stravitz created the sunflowers seen through the windows to the café terrace. The sunflowers and the garden area were inspired by two families who tragically lost children to suicide.

As visitors enter the lobby, they are greeted by three large, brilliant pink, blue, and gold Cercles created by Venezuelan-born kinetic artist Manuel Mérida. Mérida’s monochromatic studies put matter such as sand, dust, and paint pigments in constant motion to create infinite, unpredictable, and transitory moments of beauty.

Approaching the café is New York City-based sculptor Paul Villinski’s Celebration, which repurposes old vinyl records to portray birds soaring in flight. Record labels recognizable to families make up each bird’s unique plumage, evoking a joyous, musical migration made especially for CHKD.

Additional Art in Children’s Pavilion

The Reflection Room, a place of peace and calm on the first floor for our families and our staff, features a contemplative photograph of Virginia Beach by Thomas Hager. A beautiful piece by Sam Gilliam and another by Alex Weinstein round out our art collection in the seating areas of our lobby.

On our 2nd floor, visitors can find the colorful geometric art of James Little and a dramatic large-scale painting by Brian Rutenberg (shown on page 13).

To learn more about the art found throughout Children’s Pavilion, scan the QR code or visit CHKD.org/Art.