

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade Career Development**  
**Activity #8: Health Science Careers**  
**Estimated time: 30-45 minutes**

**National Career Development Guidelines Indicators**

ED1 - Attain educational achievement and performance levels needed to reach your personal and career goals

- ED1.K7 - Recognize that your educational achievement and performance can lead to many workplace options
- ED1.K8 - Recognize that the ability to acquire and use information contributes to educational achievement and performance

ED2 - Participate in ongoing, lifelong learning experiences to enhance your ability to function effectively in a diverse and changing economy

- ED2.K3 - Recognize the importance of being an independent learner and taking responsibility for your learning

CM3 - Use accurate, current, and unbiased career information during career planning and management

- CM3.K2 - Recognize that career information includes occupational, education and training, employment, and economic information and that there is a range of career information resources available
- CM3.K4 - Identify several ways to classify occupations

CM4 - Master academic, occupational, and general employability skills in order to obtain, create, maintain, and/or advance your employment

- CM4.K4 - Recognize that many skills are transferable from one occupation to another

**Goal:**

Students will investigate careers in the **Health Science** Career Cluster.

**Objectives:**

- Understand that a career cluster is a grouping of occupations based on commonalities
- Recognize that the **Health Science** Career Cluster includes careers in diagnosing, treating, and researching human healthcare and health science
- Investigate careers in the **Health Science** Career Cluster

**Materials:**

- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Career Development Activity #8 – **Health Science Careers: All About Nursing Environments** handout
- Writing materials

**Activity:**

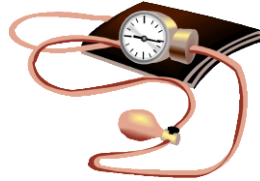
1. “Today we’re going to learn about occupations in the **Health Science** Career Cluster. Does everyone remember what a Career Cluster is? **A career cluster is a grouping of occupations based on things they have in common.**
2. “The Health Science Career Cluster includes jobs in diagnosing, treating, and researching human healthcare.” *Write this on the board.* “Now what do you think are the most obvious jobs in taking care of your health? Maybe doctors and nurses? That’s a good guess. Let’s talk about nurses today. Did you know that nurses work in all kinds of different environments?”
3. *Distribute the **Health Science Careers: All About Nursing Environments** handout to students. Go over the different environments in which nurses work. Ensure that students understand that they are all nurses, but they have chosen to work in different kinds of environments based on their interests. Allow students to discuss each type of environment. Once you’ve completed the handout, go around the room and have students say which environment they would like to work in if they were a nurse.*
4. *Divide the students into groups based on which nursing environment is their favorite. If there is only one person that likes a particular environment, ask him/her to join the group of their second favorite nurse.*
5. *Have each group of students develop a short skit showing what happens in the nursing environment they have chosen. Walk around the classroom and offer help if needed.*
6. *After the groups are done, have each group share their skit with the class.*

**Evaluation:**

Students will be evaluated on their class participation.

## Handout #1

### Health Science Careers: All About Nursing Environments 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Career Development Activity #8



**Flight Nurses** do many kinds of nursing while in the air. They fly to places where people have been injured, such as in a farm accident or a car accident. They evaluate the patient's in-flight needs and request appropriate medications, supplies and equipment, and provide nursing care from origination to the destination facility.

**Pediatric Nurses** care for children from infancy through the late teen years. They usually complete advanced training in pediatrics and collaborate closely with physicians and other health care providers who share their dedication to children's health.

**Rehabilitation Nurses** help patients with long-term physical disabilities or chronic illnesses deal with their limitations and reach their full potential. They work with patients and family members to create a recovery plan and set short and long-term goals — ultimately helping the patient achieve as independent a lifestyle as possible. Rehabilitation nurses have the opportunity to form lasting relationships with their patients.

**Labor and Delivery Nurses** help bring babies into the world. They care for women during labor and childbirth. They monitor both the baby and the mother during childbirth. They also coach the mother and assist the doctor (Obstetrician).

**Critical Care Nurses** (or Emergency Room Nurses) deal specifically with human responses to life-threatening problems. They practice in settings where patients require complex assessment, high-intensity therapies and interventions, and continuous nursing vigilance. The psychological stress of nursing in critical care units has been well-documented.

**School Nurses** support student learning. They accomplish this by implementing strategies that promote student and staff health and safety. The nurse takes a leadership role in serving as the coordinator of all school health programs. School nurses have a great amount of influence on the lives of students and their families.

**Military Nurses** are officers in the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, or Coast Guard. They participate in research, advanced medical care, and technology. But, the thing nurses are best known for is their caring compassionate expertise in treating sick and wounded military personnel.

**Community Health Nurses** (or Public Health Nurses) work in many places with both well and sick people. Health education is a primary focus of public health nurses. By working with whole communities, public health nurses are able to improve community health and safety, and increase access to care. They take temperatures, blood pressure, and pulse; teach about home safety; teach ways to keep healthy, such as hand washing, care of hair and teeth, and eating healthy foods.

**Peace Corps Nurses** have an exciting opportunity to truly make a profound impact in the lives of people all over the world. These health volunteers make up 21% of the overall Peace Corps volunteers, and they help improve basic health care at the grass-roots level by focusing on prevention, human capacity building, and education. Volunteers work on basic health care issues, such as combating malnutrition and providing safe drinking water. They also help to keep other Peace Corps volunteers healthy.