

CARE FOR KIDS

the best place for your child's surgery

*For peace of mind, choose a fully equipped,
hospital-based ambulatory surgery center*

When doctors tell you your child needs an operation, it can be scary. But there is reassurance, says Saad A. Saad, M.D., chief of pediatric surgery at the Children's Hospital at Monmouth Medical Center, in knowing you've made the best choices you can for your child—including the surgery site. In Dr. Saad's view, that means passing up today's freestanding ambulatory surgery centers and selecting a fully equipped, hospital-based ambulatory surgery center instead.

"With children the margin of error is very small, and we don't want to take any chance of things going wrong," says Dr. Saad. At Monmouth's Cranmer Ambulatory Surgery Center, he explains, parents, children and surgeons can find comfort in knowing that the Children's Hospital and pediatric intensive care unit are just an elevator ride away if needed, "without the anxiety and emotional trauma of an ambulance transfer." Cranmer is Monmouth County's only fully accredited same-day surgery center with a dedicated team of pediatric anesthesiologists led by a physician fellowship-trained in pediatric anesthesiology—and also the only one with full-time pediatric nurses trained in pediatric advanced life support. M

What Monmouth offers young surgery patients

- a special tour before the day of the operation
- a dedicated child life specialist to provide comfort
- a preparatory video, Don't Be Scared—My View of Surgery, that explains hospital procedures
- a pediatric waiting room with toys and games
- a tote bag, shaped like a school bus, with a coloring book, crayons, soap, tissues and an emesis basin in case children become ill on the way home
- a choice of flavors of lip balm—to counteract the anesthesia odor—before the anesthesia mask is supplied
- the finest surgical care, with professionals specially trained in pediatrics



If your youngster needs an operation . . .

1. Visit the facility beforehand so your child will be familiar with the surroundings. (Monmouth Medical Center's Cranmer Ambulatory Surgery Center is located at 300 Second Avenue in Long Branch.)
2. Read children's books about the hospital experience with your son or daughter and discuss what a hospital is like.
3. Explain in advance, in age-appropriate terms, what is going to happen and why it's needed. Be realistic, but not graphic. (If you use the words "put to sleep," make it clear that the phrase has a different meaning than it may have had for a family pet.)
4. Make sure your son or daughter does not eat or drink anything past the presurgery deadline you're given—often it's midnight the night before. (Anesthesia requires an empty stomach.)
5. Plan so that two adults are available for the trip home after surgery: one to drive and the other to attend to the child if necessary.
6. Bring along a favorite toy or stuffed animal. Your child may take it right into Monmouth's operating room.
7. Don't promise food or drink for right after the surgery; your youngster may not be ready for it.
8. If your child is a teenager who's playing it cool, respect his or her sophistication—but be ready for a regression to the frightened child who may lie just beneath the surface.



To find out more about how children are cared for at the Cranmer Ambulatory Surgery Center at Monmouth Medical Center, please call 732-923-7830.