OSCE checklist for child health nursing: calculations

OSCE checklist for child health nursing: paediatric medicine calculation safety means checking the prescription, weight, units and product before calculating, with supervision and no guessing. Use this original practice checklist with your course guidance and supervised skills teaching.

Numbered practice steps

1. Confirm the child's identity and introduce your student role. Explain the task in suitable language, check who can consent under the applicable law, and seek the child's agreement as appropriate. Explain privacy and its limits before sensitive questions. Use hand hygiene and appropriate protective equipment before contact.
2. Confirm the child, allergy status and valid prescription. Check an up-to-date weight in the required units and the source and date of that measurement.
3. Identify what the prescription asks for: a single administration or a daily total to be divided. Check the frequency and route rather than assuming they are interchangeable.
4. Check the medicine formulation and concentration against the prescription and reference. Distinguish the amount of medicine from the volume of liquid needed.
5. Write the calculation with units at each stage using the school's fictional prescription. Check the prescribed amount, maximum allowed and relevant patient factors against an appropriate paediatric reference. Check conversions and plausibility, and obtain independent checking where policy requires.
6. If any detail is missing, unclear or inconsistent, stop and ask the supervising practitioner or pharmacist. Record and administer only through the authorised medicine process.
7. Close by checking understanding, ensuring comfort and cleaning your hands and equipment as appropriate. Document findings and hand over any unresolved safety concern to the supervising practitioner.

Common omissions

Using an old weight, confusing a daily total with a single administration or assuming all bottles have the same strength can cause harm. A calculator cannot

detect an incorrect prescription or unit.

Try an original practice task

Use only a school-supplied fictional chart and product label. Explain what information is needed before calculating. This page supplies no doses, worked dose examples or prescribing instructions.

These steps support learning, rather than authorising independent treatment. Follow your school's task and local policy; ask for help when a decision exceeds your competence.

Related nursing practice

Return to child health nursing OSCE practice or use the full checklist directory.

For a related communication exercise, try the medicine calculation practice station. Its task and clinical setting may differ from this checklist.

Common questions

Is this a school marking sheet?

No. This is an original learning checklist. Your school sets the task and assessment criteria.

Can I print this checklist?

Yes. Use the PDF download on this page for practice.

Sources

- NMC: The Code
- NICE NG204: babies, children and young people experience of healthcare

Checked 2026-11-13. Fees and rules change, so confirm them with the regulator before you book.