

Introduce Kids to Healthcare Missions

Parents and Children’s Leaders: Here are some ideas for introducing the concept of healthcare missions to your children. Maybe one day God will lead them to be a missionary healthcare professional!

What is healthcare or medical missions? Healthcare missions is when doctors, nurses, or other medical professionals use their career in a new place—usually another country—to help people be healthy, but also to share the gospel.

Activities:

Missionary Tools: Display items (can be toys) that a medical professional might use: thermometer, stethoscope, bandages, blood pressure cuff. Explain to kids that these are items a missionary doctor or nurse might need. One-by-one ask kids if they know what each item is and how it is used. At the end, add a Bible to the display and ask: “Why is this the most important tool the missionaries need?” Remind kids that leading people to Jesus is the most important thing.

Online Meeting:

If you know a missionary healthcare professional, plan a time for them to meet online with your kids. The week before, invite kids to think of questions they would like to ask about the missionary’s work, ministry, and country. Send the questions to the missionary ahead of time, but allow for interaction between your kids and the missionary as is appropriate for your group.

Visit Website:

With your group, visit imb.org/healthcare. Ask for volunteers to read the descriptions you see about the work, prayer requests and needs. Take time to pray with your kids about the requests you see on the site.

Medical Supply Collection:

Lead your kids to collect small medical supplies like adhesive bandages and antibiotic ointment from your church or community. Invite them to make small bags of supplies to be made available at a local clinic, clothes closet, or homeless shelter. In each bag, encourage kids to include an index card with a Bible verse or message about Jesus’ love. Remind them that when we help people with a physical need, we can also help with a spiritual need.

