

## Tips for self-directed learning on the ward

The ward-round is not the only learning opportunity on the ward. There are many opportunities for self-directed learners.

Some strategies for learning include:

- Go back and examine the patients. Try and see children with new conditions or clinical signs OR use the opportunity to compare examination findings between children with the same, common paediatric problem.
- Clerk patients – pretend that you are admitting them to hospital and then compare what you did to what the team did when they were admitted to hospital. Did you elicit the same history? How did your management plan differ?
  - Clerk another patient with the same condition – what are the similarities, what are the differences?
- Help with jobs from the round – there is value in learning some administrative aspects of the junior doctor role.
- Keep a log of types of cases that you have seen so you can identify gaps in your experience to target your learning further.
- Go to clinic with the consultant on ward-service
- Common procedures – observe and participate. There is a lot that can be gained from observing including how procedural distress is managed on the ward.
- Observe an allied health consultation and consider their role for the patient.
- Practice responding to “common pages” – fluid review, fever, increased work of breathing. This is something that you can ‘practice’ independently or respond to real pages with the resident.