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UNDERSTANDING THE TURTLE SIGN CHILDREN'S SURGERY CENTER

What is the Turtle Sign?

- It is signage displayed outside of the patient's room/bay to quickly communicate to the provider that the patient has sensory needs.
- It means to “SLOW DOWN” and review the chart or ask the primary nurse before entering the patient’s space
- It displays the patient's sensory preferences and/or triggers so the care team can adapt their care accordingly

Why is the turtle sign important?

- It quickly communicates to the medical team that a patient is neurodivergent and has specific sensory needs
- If filled out beforehand, this sign helps the provider to complete tasks efficiently and with limited stressors to the patient

How can this be used?

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Sensory Considerations:

Please see bedside RN or child life specialist

- The sign is placed on the outside of the patient’s room or bay and travels with the patient when changing locations
- Write in the information that will help guide the medical team decrease triggering events and promotes sensory regulation
 - I like the lights low
 - Please only one person at a time
 - Shhhh...please talk in a quiet voice
 - Please have all medical conversations outside the room



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Please see bedside RN or child life specialist