



# Child-friendly MRI services



**Boston  
Children's  
Hospital**

Where the world comes for answers

## What is magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)?

MRI is a diagnostic tool that creates images of patients' bones, tissues, and organs. Compared to X-rays, which produce 2D images, MRIs can provide 3D images with greater detail. Unlike X-rays and computed tomography (CT), MRIs don't use ionizing radiation.

## What to expect if your child needs an MRI?

An MRI machine is a large magnet shaped like a short tube. Patients lie on a scanning bed inside this tube.

- One of our MRI technologists will make sure your child is positioned correctly on the scanning bed.
- The MRI machine is noisy. An MRI technologist will give your child earplugs and a headset to protect their ears during the scan.
- Your child will be able to communicate with the technologist throughout the scan.

An MRI scan can take 20 to 90 minutes. Your child can watch a show during this time.

## Will my child need anesthesia?

Patients need to lie completely still during an MRI, otherwise the images come out blurry. Sometimes patients, especially very young children, need anesthesia to lie still during the MRI.

If your child needs anesthesia, a pediatric anesthesiologist will give your child the medication and monitor them until they wake up after the MRI.

## Child-friendly MRI at Boston Children's Hospital

- Our colorful scanners are designed like castles, trains, and boats.
- Your child can stream video or listen to music during their scan.
- You can be in the room with your child during their MRI.
- Our specialized radiologists are skilled at interpreting pediatric images.
- Your child's doctor will review the results with the radiologist.
- Our technologists use two-way communication to monitor and reassure your child throughout the MRI.

## Advanced MRI technology

- 3T and 1.5T MRI produces vivid images for accurate diagnoses.
- Wide-bore MRI offers a large opening for a more comfortable experience.
- AI-enabled imaging technology decreases scan time and improves image quality.

## Convenient locations

### **Boston Children's Hospital**

300 Longwood Ave.  
Boston, MA 02115

### **Boston Children's Peabody**

10 Centennial Dr.  
Peabody, MA 01960

### **Boston Children's Needham**

Coming soon

### **Boston Children's Waltham**

9 Hope Ave.  
Waltham, MA 02453

### **Boston Children's Weymouth**

200 Libbey Parkway  
Weymouth, MA 02189

**Call the Department of Radiology  
to schedule your child's MRI today.  
617-919-7226**

