

Pediatrician

A doctor for babies, children and teens. Four years of residency after medical school, then a job that never runs short of patients.

TYPICAL PAY

\$250,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$180k to \$350k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

10 to 13 years

after high school

DEMAND

Very high

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

Children's hospitals, community clinics, neonatal units, rural hospit...

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
 Top marks in biology, chemistry, math and English. You need a very high average for a science undergrad.
- 2 Bachelor's degree** 3 to 4 years
 Any major works. Keep a GPA (grade point average) above 3.8, volunteer with kids, do research. Write the MCAT (medical school admission test).
- 3 Medical school, the MD (doctor of medicine)** 3 to 4 years
 Acceptance rates are 5% to 15%. Two years of classes, then clinical rotations including a pediatrics block.
- 4 Pediatrics residency** 4 years
 Matched through CaRMS (the residency matching service). Paid, supervised work on wards, in the emergency department and in the NICU (neonatal intensive care unit).
- 5 Certification and licence** End of residency
 Pass the Royal College exam to become FRCPC (Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Canada), then register with your provincial College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Pros and cons

- + Kids mostly get better, which makes the work hopeful
- + Shorter residency than most specialties
- + Job security is total, every province is short
- Paid less than other specialists for equal hours
- Sick children and grieving parents are hard
- Night and weekend call in hospital roles

Good to know

The first insulin patient was 14

Insulin was discovered at the University of Toronto in 1921. The first person ever treated with it, in January 1922, was a 14-year-old boy named Leonard Thompson.

SickKids opened in 1875

The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto started in an 11-room rented house. It is now one of the largest children's hospitals in the world.

Optional boosts

Neonatology. Pediatric emergency medicine. Pediatric cardiology, oncology, neurology. Developmental pediatrics.

Where these numbers come from

Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada

CIHI: A profile of physicians in Canada, 2024 (payments)

CIHI: National Physician Database, payments by specialty, 2023 to 2024 (data tables)

CaRMS: the residency match

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/pediatrician>



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