To our mentor, Dr. Scott Benton, for motivating us to always push forward and offer only the best medical care to the children we serve.
ABOUT THE AUTHORS

**Stacie LeBlanc, M.Ed., J.D.**
Stacie prosecuted child-abuse cases for 10 years and supervised a felony child-abuse program. After realizing the importance and necessity of expert forensic medical evaluations for the well being of victims and the prosecution of their offenders, Stacie joined the Children’s Hospital in 2000 and worked to increase the availability and quality of medical services for abused children.

**Adrienne Atzemis, M.D.**
A board-certified pediatrician, Dr. Atzemis completed her fellowship training at the Audrey Hepburn CARE Center and joined the team as an attending physician in 2005. In 2007, Dr. Atzemis began directing the CARE fellowship program, which continues to teach state-of-the-art pediatric forensic medicine.

**Yameika Head, M.D.**
Also a board-certified pediatrician, Dr. Head completed the fellowship training and joined the CARE team as a full-time, attending child-abuse pediatrician in 2008.
Check Out the Checkup
What to Expect at a Forensic Medical Visit

by Stacie LeBlanc, M.Ed., J.D.,
Adrienne Atzemis, M.D.,
and Yameika Head, M.D.

2nd Edition published with the input of additional CARE Center medical providers:
Jamie Jackson, M.D.
Anne Troy, N.P.
Ellie Wetsman, M.D.

Published with the help of interns Kelly Caravella and Stephanie Patterson.
Special thanks to the child volunteers for their help with this book.
None of the children featured are patients.
Why Am I Here?

You are here because someone who cares is worried about you.

At centers like this, a whole team works together to make sure you are all right.
The helping puppy wants you to take a look at the pictures and see for yourself!

1st: You will be brought to your local Children’s Advocacy Center and you will talk with someone who is good at talking with kids. These talks are videotaped so that you don’t have to talk about things over and over again.

2nd: You will be scheduled for a special checkup to make sure your body is OK. This book will prepare you for this special checkup. Sometimes kids worry about getting checkups, but this is a “no ouch” checkup.
Many people want to make sure you are OK...

Some work behind the scenes to make sure you get the best medical CARE!
Teams have doctors, nurses, attorneys, social workers, counselors, psychologists, police, and advocates, who all work together to take care of you.

Helping Teams
There is a team of different people who want to help you. Teams are like huge families!
The checkup cottage is like a home,
with snacks, books, playrooms and lots of fun people to spend time with.
When you enter...
you will be greeted and can play in one of the playrooms until it is time for your checkup. There are lots of cubbies with fun stuff for you to play with like crayons, markers, paper and crafts to make.
Discovering Butterflies!

Taking a Tour

Wednesday, August 3, 2011
Getting to Know Each Other
Family Room

There are lots of things for you to do...

books, dolls, toys, crayons, crafts and PlayStations!
Craft Activities

Ask the volunteers to help you complete a fun project...

Painting, coloring, cake pop decorating and more!
Look What We Made!

Wednesday, August 3, 2011
Have a snack...

Cookies, crackers, popsicles and more!
While you are playing or having a snack...

parents have time to talk to the team in case they have any questions. Remember that YOU CAN ALWAYS ASK any questions that you may have. Everyone at the center is happy to answer any of your questions.
Before the checkup...

there will be a talking part or interview at your local Children’s Advocacy Center.

When it’s time for your interview, you will sit down and talk. Other kids say there was nothing to be worried about or scared of during their talking part.
Smile for the Camera!

The camera fits into a real balloon in this room. Can you find the camera?

The interview is videotaped so you don't have to talk about things over and over again.
Interview

Lots of kids forget all about the camera once they start talking!

You can relax and feel comfortable telling what has happened to you.

Some kids like to play with play-doh during the interview.
Helping Puppy wants you to know that these are safe places to tell what happened.
Talking rooms look different.

Check out the room before the talking part!

The video camera is built into a street lamp in this room.
Once the talking is over, kids feel relieved.
Before your checkup begins,
someone will explain everything that will happen and they will answer all your questions.

Remember, you can ALWAYS ask questions!

Some kids feel nervous about the checkup, but all of the kids who have had it before you want you to know that it does not hurt and you will feel better after it is over.
What do kids think?

“What would you say to a child that you knew was coming here tomorrow?”

Here are some REAL answers from other kids who had an exam...

Don’t be scared, it doesn’t hurt.
The people there are nice.

I would say don’t worry because you’re in good hands.

They’re not going to hurt you just help you. And they will treat you well. The doctors and nurses are very nice.

Doctor is fun & nice.
Do you have a fever? How tall are you? How fast is your heart beating?

The exam begins with some stuff that are all part of a normal checkup!
Puppy knows it doesn't hurt!
Talking

Before the nose to toes checkup...

your doctor or nurse needs to know if you are worried about anything and about what happened so they know what parts of your body to check.
Part of the Checkup
To make sure nothing is missed, your doctor or nurse will check your whole body from your NOSE to your TOES...
No Ouches!

...And everything in between!

If you need to pee, let someone know and you can pee in a cup when you go to the bathroom.
Magic Lights

Special lights shine on your skin and clothes to look for things that can hide in regular light. Invisible things appear!
Cotton swabs are used to wipe parts of your body to check for germs. It doesn’t hurt! You can do it yourself, if you want.
Your doctor or nurse will take quick pictures.

They might use a regular camera or a special one.
Laws Protect Private Photos

The pictures will be kept private.

Your doctor or nurse will only allow a few special people to ever see the pictures.
After your exam, you are ready to go home.

Your doctor or nurse will go over everything from your visit with you and your parent. They will also give you information to take home with you.

If there is anything we can do to make your visit better, let us know!
Exam Is Done!
After the checkup, kids tell us that they feel much better. They also say that their checkup DID NOT HURT.
Saying Goodbye

We hope that you leave smiling and know that these centers are places that make children feel safe.
We are glad you came!
Jumping for Joy!
Soaring To Safety!

Wednesday, August 3, 2011
Honoring Bravery

You are brave!

Pick a button and put it in the wishing jar, so we will remember your bravery. Buttons are unique, just like you!
Make a Wish!

- Buttons represent the number of children served by the NOCAC and the Audrey Hepburn CARE Center.
- Each child picks out a button to place in the wishing jar.
- Every button represents a child's individuality and their bravery for telling.
- Buttons for bravery is one more way to patch a path for safe families.
- Buttons are unique, like each child served.
Puppy, Nothing Hurt!

Wednesday, August 3, 2011
Ease Anxiety

The forensic medical exam often raises significant anxiety for children and their families, usually due to misconceptions about how the exam is conducted and what findings, or lack of findings, mean.

It is essential for team members and Children’s Advocacy Center staff to be trained about the nature and purpose of a medical evaluation so that they can prepare kids and answer questions.

We hope this book helps prepare children for necessary forensic medical exams.

For additional information contact The Audrey Hepburn CARE Center, a program of Children’s Hospital in New Orleans.
About This Book

This book was written to help kids and their families prepare for and understand a forensic medical checkup. The authors are directors of the Audrey Hepburn CARE Center in New Orleans where thousands of children are examined each year.

When the exam is over, the kids always say “that wasn’t bad.” The kids tell us that we need to let other kids know that the exam does not hurt and that there is no reason to be afraid. A lot of kids also tell us that they feel better after their exam. They like knowing that their body is OK and that they are normal like all other kids.

So take a look at the pictures, ask questions and learn how a forensic medical exam can help.