MRI Scan Prep Book
Welcome to Radiology. This is where you will have your MRI scan. After you check in, someone will walk you to the MRI area.
This is Tony. He is a technologist who takes pictures with an MRI camera.

Let’s look at the camera.
This is an MRI camera. It takes pictures of the inside of your body.

Do you see the bed where you will lie down?
This is Connor. He is practicing holding very still for his pictures.

It is very important to hold still so the pictures turn out just right.

Can you practice being still?
You can watch a movie or listen to music while you have your pictures taken.

These are movie goggles and headphones you will wear to see and hear the movie.

You can bring your own movie or choose one at the hospital.
What movie do you think Connor is watching?

Do you have a favorite movie or TV show?
You might have a helmet over your head like Connor does.

The helmet does not touch or hurt Connor; it just helps with his pictures.

A soft seatbelt helps keep people safe while they are lying on the bed. The seatbelt reminds Connor to hold his body still.
The bed moves into the camera to take Connor’s pictures. The camera is around him, but it does not touch him.

A parent or other adult can be with you during your pictures.
Did you know the camera makes loud noises when it takes a picture?

Some kids say it sounds like knocking or loud buzzing. Earplugs and headphones help make the noises quieter.

I wonder what it will sound like to you.
You might lie feet first on the bed for some types of MRI scans.
You may be asked to lie on your belly for some pictures.

You can lie on a soft pillow so that you are comfortable.
This is called a coil and it will be used if you are having pictures of your belly or chest.

Some kids say it feels like a heavy blanket and looks like a turtle shell.

The coil does not hurt; it just helps takes pictures.
For some types of MRI scans, an IV is needed to put contrast in a person’s body. Contrast looks like water and it helps the doctor see certain pictures better.

The IV is placed before the MRI starts and is taken out when the scan is finished.
Your MRI can take anywhere from 45 minutes to a few hours, depending on the type of scan.

After your scan is finished, someone will walk you out.