



OSCE Checklist: Paediatric History Taking

Opening the consultation	
1	Wash your hands and don PPE if appropriate
2	Introduce yourself including your name and role
3	Greet the child, their parents or carers and any other siblings who are present
4	Confirm the child's name and date of birth
5	Explain that you'd like to take a history
6	Gain consent to proceed with taking a history
Presenting complaint	
7	Use open questioning to explore the presenting complaint
History of presenting complaint	
8	Explore the presenting complaint in more detail using a range of questions (e.g. when did it start, how has it changed, has there been similar episodes in the past, does anything make it better or worse etc)
9	Explore the child's and parent's/carer's ideas, concerns and expectations
10	Summarise the presenting complaint
Systemic enquiry	
11	Screen for relevant symptoms in other body systems
Past medical and surgical history	
12	Ask if the child has any medical conditions
13	Ask if the child has undergone any relevant surgical procedures
14	Ask if the child has any allergies and if so, clarify what kind of reaction they had to the substance
15	Explore the child's prenatal, birth and neonatal history if relevant to the presenting complaint
16	Ask if the child is currently meeting their developmental and growth milestones if relevant
17	Ask if the child is up to date with their immunisations
Drug history	
18	Ask if the child is currently taking any prescribed medications or over-the-counter remedies
Family history	
19	Start by drawing a family tree or genogram which you can then annotate with key details about the child's family members
20	Ask if any family members or friends have recently experienced similar symptoms to those the child is presenting with
21	Ask about conditions which appear to run in the family and clarify who has been affected

Social history	
22	Clarify who lives with the child and the type of accommodation
23	Ask about the relationship status of the parents/carers
24	Ask about the child's play or leisure activities
25	Ask if the child is happy at home and at school/nursery
26	Clarify the smoking status of the parents and others living with the child
27	Ask if the child is currently under the care of social services, subject to a child protection plan or has previously had social services involvement
28	Use the HEEADSSS structure to further explore the social history of an adolescent or young adult
Closing the consultation	
29	Summarise the key points back to the child and parents/carers and ask if they feel anything has been missed
30	Thank the child and parents/carers for their time
31	Dispose of PPE appropriately and wash your hands
Key communication skills	
32	Active listening
33	Summarising
34	Signposting

Read the full guide at geekymedics.com



Download our [clinical skills app](#)