



OSCE Checklist: Paediatric Cardiovascular Examination

Introduction		
1	Wash your hands and don PPE if appropriate	
2	Introduce yourself to the parents and the child, including your name and role	
3	Confirm the child's name and date of birth	
4	Briefly explain what the examination will involve using patient-friendly language	
5	Gain consent from the parents/carers and/or child before proceeding	
General inspection		
6	Observe the child in their environment (e.g. waiting room, hospital bed) and take note of their appearance and behaviour	
Hands		
7	Inspect the hands for clinical signs relevant to the cardiovascular system	
8	Assess and compare the temperature of the hands	
9	Assess capillary refill time (CRT)	
Pulses and blood pressure		
10	Palpate the radial pulse, assessing the heart rate and rhythm	
11	Assess for radio-radial delay	
12	Assess for a collapsing pulse	
Jugular venous pressure (JVP)		
13	Measure the JVP with the patient positioned correctly	
Face		
14	Inspect the face and eyes for signs relevant to the cardiovascular system (e.g. conjunctival pallor, xanthelasma)	
15	Inspect the mouth for signs relevant to the cardiovascular system (e.g. central cyanosis, angular stomatitis, high-arched palate)	
Close inspection of the chest		
16	Inspect for scars, chest wall deformities and pulsations	
Palpation		
17	Palpate the abdomen to assess for hepatomegaly	
18	Palpate the apex beat and assess position	
19	Assess for a parasternal heave	
20	Assess for thrills	

Auscultation		
21	Auscultate the mitral, tricuspid, pulmonary and aortic valve with the diaphragm of the stethoscope	
22	Repeat auscultation of all 4 valves using the bell of the stethoscope	
23	Auscultate the lung fields on the anterior and posterior aspect of the chest	
Final steps		
24	Assess for evidence of pedal or sacral oedema	
To complete the examination...		
25	Explain to the child and parents that the examination is now finished	
26	Ensure the child is re-dressed after the examination	
27	Thank the child and parents for their time	
28	Explain your findings to the parents	
29	Ask if the parents and child (if appropriate) have any questions	
30	Dispose of PPE appropriately and wash your hands	
31	Summarise your findings to the examiner	
32	Suggest further assessments and investigations (e.g. abdominal examination, respiratory examination, vital signs, ECG)	

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