A NOTE TO PARENTS

This coloring and activity book is designed to help children understand surgery and anesthesia in their own words. It was created by the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) as part of its When Seconds Count® initiative, which aims to:

- Educate patients about anesthesia, pain management and the medical experts committed to patient safety and high-quality care before, during and after surgery and other procedures.
- Alert patients to the importance of patient-centered, physician-led care and the critical role physician anesthesiologists have in ensuring patient safety.

For more information about preparing children for surgery, go to asahq.org/kidschecklist.

ASA is an educational, research and scientific society with more than 52,000 members committed to ensuring that every patient receives the highest-quality and safest care.
Your doctor just told you and your parents that you need to go to the hospital to get better. What does that mean? First, be sure to pack some of your favorite things. You could bring a stuffed animal, your favorite toy, your blankie or even a book.
On the day of your surgery, you’ll get to check out your room in the hospital or medical center. You’ll be given some funny pajamas to wear. You’ll also meet your nurse, your surgeon and your special doctor — your physician anesthesiologist.

Your physician anesthesiologist will give you some medicine called anesthesia. This medicine will help you sleep until your surgery is done. That way, you won’t feel a thing!
There are two ways to get anesthesia. One way is to breathe the medicine through a soft plastic mask that goes over your nose and mouth. Another way is through a super tiny plastic tube. This is called an IV.

After you take your medicine, you’ll get a fun ride to the operating room on a bed with wheels. That’s where your special doctor — your physician anesthesiologist — will watch over you and take special care of you while you are sleeping.
And then you’re done!

When you wake up, it might feel like only a minute went by. You might also feel a little dizzy, but that will go away. The doctors will make sure your mommy and daddy are with you as soon as possible.

Your doctor will tell your mom and dad when you can go home. You may be able to leave the hospital right away, or you might stay overnight. Your mom and dad can stay with you too! When you do get to go home, don’t forget to say goodbye to the new friends you’ve made!