

Educating Our Future Staff: Introducing Children to the Nursing Profession

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Educating Our Future Staff: Introducing Children to the Nursing Profession

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Background

Nursing is projected to have a shortage of 500,000 nurses by 2025. Vocational theorists believe that career decisions begin during early childhood. When our children were young, we searched for and collected many books about nursing to teach our children about our profession. Many were outdated depictions of today's nurse. We also distributed a survey to nurses to determine why they chose this profession. The survey results showed that many had a family member who was a nurse or involved in someone's illness at a young age. We decided to write our own book!



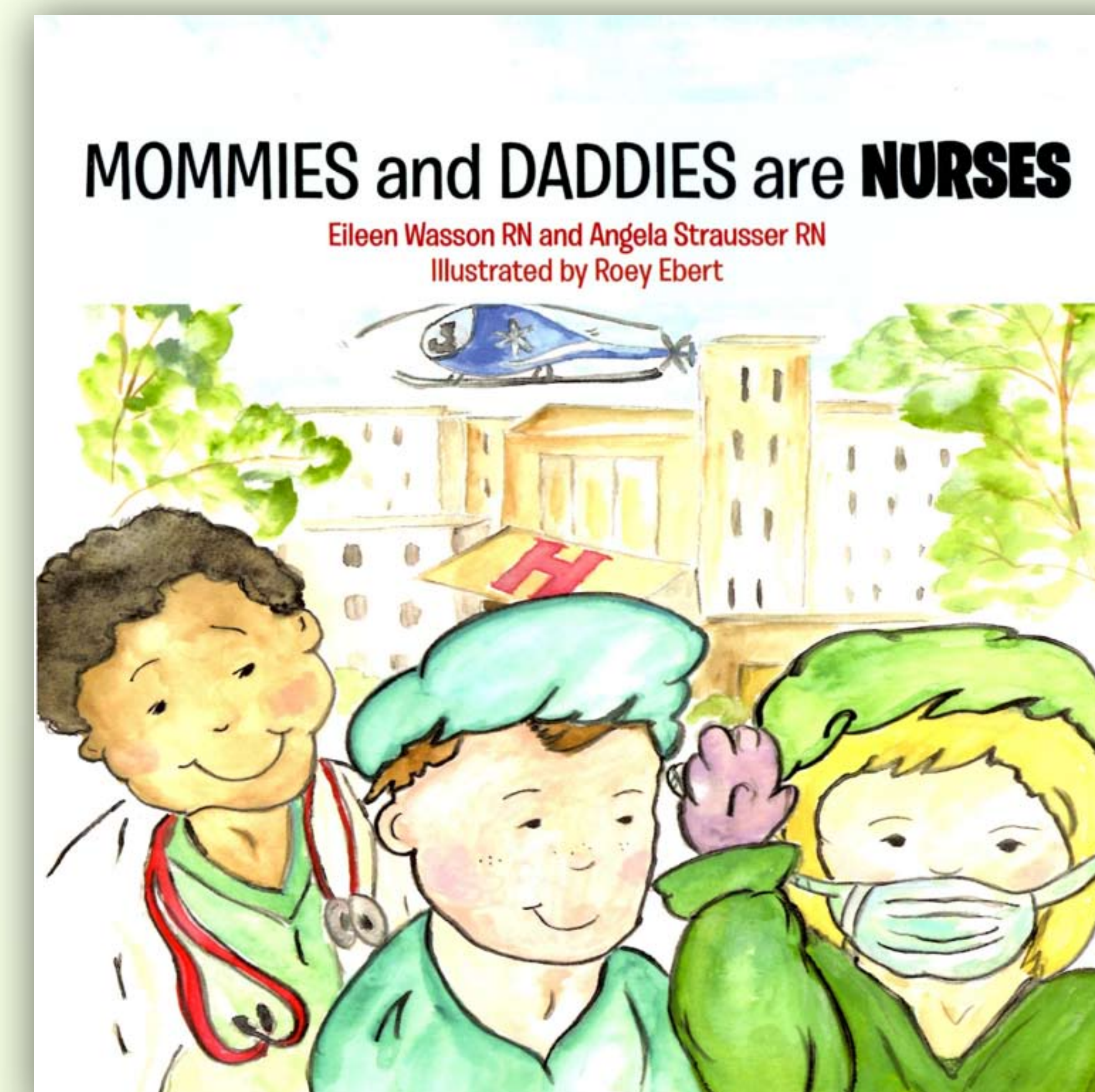
References:

1. Turner, P., (2011). Enhancing nursing as a career choice with fifth-grade students. *Nursing Economics*, 29 (3), 136-153.
2. Wircenski, J., Wircenski, M., Nimon, K., (2008). Cultivating nursing career Connections in K-12 education. *Journal for Nurses in Staff Development*, 24 (5), E1-E7.



Project Description

- Wrote the content of the book “Mommies and Daddies are Nurses” featuring multi-cultural, realistic male and female nurses in a variety of settings such as: operating room nurse, military nurse and school nurse.
- Researched children’s book publishers and established matches for our book. Submitted transcripts but became discouraged by the long wait time and challenging guidelines for submission. Received a few rejection notices.
- Began researching self publishing agencies. Also learned we needed our own illustrator and worked to find someone who would create images that were colorful and depicted modern nurses in various roles.
- We believed that we could make our book a reality. A big leap of faith!
- Worked with Author House each step of the way. Approved each galley with font type, size and colors to obtain the product we wanted. They were awesome to work with!



Project Goals

- Introduce children to nursing by using our book as a tool to bring our profession to life in their minds!
 - We've had book readings for preschools, elementary schools and brownie troops.
- Provide a coloring page, masks, and caps at the end of the reading session so the children could use play to enhance our message.
- Attend professional nursing conferences to introduce our book to nurses to create awareness and promote the amazing work of nurses.
- Market ourselves in media outlets including nursing magazines, speaking engagements, etc.
- Inspire others to take their ideas and make them happen!



Challenges Encountered

- Self marketing our product
- Developing a business name and model. We did not know about charging sales tax!
- Defining the relationship with the illustrator (do we pay for the work or give royalties?)
- Waiting! It took 5 years for our book to become a reality. Way too long!