Background: Pediatric patients received postanesthesia care beside adult patients. This led to dissatisfied patients and families related to noise, visitation differences, and privacy. A separate pediatric unit was needed for patient, family, surgeon, and staff satisfaction.

Objectives: Project focused on renovation of space in the Surgical Suite to accommodate a pediatric recovery area. The area would be more pediatric focused in décor, equipment, and adequate space for parent visitation. Improved Press-Ganey scores would reflect increased satisfaction.

Process of Implementation: Relocated OR supply area provided available space. An interdisciplinary team worked to plan layout and equipment needed for the unit. While physical space was renovated nurses from PACU and ambulatory surgery worked with management to select equipment and generate supply lists to stock the unit. As equipment was installed, vendors provided initial educational sessions. Staffing plans were developed through collaboration of staff nurses and management following ASPAN staffing recommendations. One challenge was the need to build a pediatric friendly environment while supplying it to meet needs of adult overflow patients.

Statement of Successful Practice: The “10 Bay PACU” opened in July 2011 with 8 regular and 2 isolation cubicles. Physicians are pleased to have all pediatric patients consolidated into one unit. Families have more space at bedside to stay with the patients postoperatively. The unit is more pediatric patient specific and staff can easily access equipment and supplies appropriate to this population.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: Opportunity for staff to increase competency in care of the pediatric patient. Improved patient safety and outcomes with the increased skills of the nursing staff.