Jaylin, take a small breath in. Hold your breath.

When the kids come in I tell them that a probe is a camera that takes pictures of their heart.

My name is Kelly Nimylowycz. I’m a Cardiac Sonographer at Cleveland Clinic Children’s.

We look at the heart by ultrasound. Patients either come in with symptoms, or their doctor hears a heart murmur and so they come in and they lie on the bead, and then we put gel on the probe and put the probe on their chest and start imaging. We look at the heart from all different angles.

The probe will send an ultrasound signal to the organs, and then the ultrasound beam is sent back and then displays an image on the screen.

I was just always fascinated with ultrasound. I’ve had family members who have had ultrasounds before and just seeing the ultrasound on the screen I feel is just amazing and the fact that you can see the valves opening and closing, you can see the chambers, you know, squeezing, you can see inside the heart without actually going inside of the heart, I mean, it’s absolutely amazing.

So this is the patient’s heart. This is the right ventricle and this is the left ventricle. Those are the two main pumping chambers of the heart. And, in this particular patient, his left ventricle, which is the main pumping chamber is smaller, and so he needed surgery to correct that. So, for this patient, his right ventricle is his main pumping chamber that will pump blood to the rest of the body.

The classes I took in middle school and high school are the foundation, that was the building blocks to what I’ve learned today. You build upon what you learn in high school, knowing the basic anatomy from biology class and learning conversions in chemistry class to be able to do those things in the healthcare field are very important.

Ok, now, Jaylin, look towards the screen for me. Perfect.

There are all different types of sonographers. We’re all very specialized. And even in cardiac sonography we’re very specialized as well. I do pediatric cardiac sonography, but there’s also adult cardiac sonography also. And in pediatric cardiac sonography we typically look at patients that have congenital heart disease.

And no problems since the last time you’ve been here? Keeping up with your friends ok?

My favorite part of this job is working with the kids and the families, and seeing them get better and do well. It’s just amazing. Absolutely amazing.