

Child Life Services

Child life specialists provide patient- and family-centered care throughout the hospital, including the pediatric intensive care unit, emergency department, surgical services, various outpatient clinics, and inpatient units. Members of child life services collaborate with multiple health care professionals to best serve patient needs. For more information regarding the child life department, please call **401-444-8279** or visit our website at **www.lifespan.org/childlife**.

Your child life specialist is:

and can be reached this way:



CHILD LIFE SERVICES

Play With a Purpose



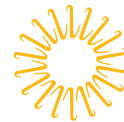
Hasbro Children's Hospital

The Pediatric Division of Rhode Island Hospital

Lifespan. Delivering health with care.®

Child Life Services
Hasbro Children's Hospital
593 Eddy Street, Room 144
Providence, RI 02903

HasbroChildrensHospital.org



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The hospital experience for an infant, child or adolescent can be overwhelming. Child life specialists at Hasbro Children's Hospital are here to support children and families through their hospitalization by responding to their psychosocial, developmental and educational needs.

Our Staff

The child life services staff are certified professionals who are prepared at the bachelor's and master's levels in child life, child development, education, and related fields. They are integral members of the health care team, and their assessments and interventions contribute to the development of the total patient care plan.

Goals of the Child Life Department

- To encourage children and adolescents to maintain a sense of independence and control, as well as to provide an outlet for expression of their feelings
- To reduce the potential stress and fear of the unknown by providing developmentally appropriate explanations and education about illness, injuries, and related treatments

- To reestablish familiar routines and activities that may be disrupted within the confines of the medical environment
- To offer choices to pediatric patients to enable them to make decisions, concentrate on play, enhance their natural creativity, and master new skills that will help them cope and adjust to being in the hospital
- To advocate for patient and family involvement and family-centered care

Role of the Child Life Specialist

Services that child life specialists provide during hospital visits can include:

- Providing developmentally appropriate play opportunities, including medical play
- Supporting patients and families during health care events by providing emotional support and/or distraction
- *Preparation* – for tests, procedures, and/or surgery to help children understand at a developmentally appropriate level what will happen in the hospital
- *Procedural support* – to introduce and provide distraction and relaxation techniques to ease pain and enhance coping skills
- *Medical play* – to encourage children to express fears, discuss misconceptions about the hospital, and gain a sense of independence, self-esteem, and control
- *Play* – to offer a positive and familiar experience that provides continued growth and development, as well as the opportunity for them to express feelings
- *Programming and special events* – to facilitate and support therapeutic activities such as creative arts, animal visiting, birthday and holiday celebrations, and special guest visitors
- *Supervision* – to train and mentor child life students and playroom and bedside activity volunteers

