

Guidelines for Group Activities

Group activities at The Children's Hospital help normalize the hospital environment as well as reduce stress for patients and families. Examples of visiting group activities include: story time, craft activities, and puppet shows. The Child Life Department coordinates these efforts along with their own planned activities. Please be aware that our census can vary greatly from day to day; therefore attendance at activities can vary as well. A staff member will accompany the group at all times.

- Each event must be approved and coordinated by a Child Life Specialist.
- To schedule a visiting group activity, call Megan Greene, at (478) 633-6384. 10:00am-11:00am and 2:00pm-3:00pm
- Monday through Friday are set aside for visiting group activities in the Teen/Activity Room; no room-to-room visits are allowed.
- If media coverage is anticipated, the Child Life Specialist must be informed at least three days before the event in order to properly obtain a photo consent form and inform public relations.
- Costumes should be child-friendly and not frightening in any way.
- Age-appropriate, safe prizes may be passed out to patients; to protect the patients, used toys or used stuffed animals are not allowed. Also, please count on leaving extra prizes for the patients who are unable to attend the activity.
- Visiting groups should bring no more than 5 people and should be at least 12 years of age and accompanied by an adult.
- Because children have limited attention spans, special events should last no longer than one hour; activities should be designed for all ages to participate.
- No homemade food, fresh fruit, or candy that could cause choking; candy that is appropriate must be in original wrapper.
- Our patients come from a variety of backgrounds and because of that activities should not include religious literature, praying, laying of hands, hugging, blessings, healing, or any other religious customs that could cause patients to feel uncomfortable.

- For the safety of the patients, activities should not include latex balloons, fire, knives, firecrackers, flashing lights, smoke, or any other harmful substances.