

Harris County Hospital District  
Ben Taub and LBJ Hospitals  
Child Life Service

Going to the hospital can be a very challenging event for children along with their families. While in the hospital children often feel as if they have very few choices and little control in what goes on around them.

They may experience fear, unfamiliarity, regression, pain, and separation from their family. In order to make hospitalization a positive experience for children, Child Life Specialists strive to alleviate stress and anxiety while promoting valuable coping strategies through play, support, and education.

The items listed are used in our hospital playrooms, patient rooms, and procedure rooms to enable coping and to create a non-threatening and supportive environment for hospitalized children.

All of our child life specialists are certified and have a degree in child development. They oversee the toy donations to ensure they are age appropriate and that they meet the safety standards for all pediatric patients. Our Child Life Specialists serves patients and their families from birth through adolescents.

Child Life Staff

Bridgett Steffen, BS, CCLS  
Senior Child Life Specialist  
Neonatal Intensive Care

Rachel Goldman, BA, CCLS  
Child Life Specialist  
Pedi Outpatient

Lindsey Leal, BS, CCLS  
Certified Child Life Specialist  
Inpatient/Outpatient

Sandra Coronado  
Child Life Assistant  
Inpatient/Outpatient

Toy Wish List  
Child Life for Pediatric Patients

Infants/Toddlers/Preschool Ages 0-5

1. \*hand-held rattles - Baby Einstein, Sassy or Fisher Price
2. \*Crib Toys that “light up” -- Baby Einstein Monet Crib Toy
3. \*Bilingual & Spanish Board Books and regular infant and children’s books
4. \*Interactive toys (shape sorter, musical, light up)
5. \*V-Tech – bilingual & Spanish
6. \*Leap Frog
7. \*Little People Toys and The Wee People toys
8. Art supplies -- Crayons, coloring books, Play-Doh
9. \*Any Dora toys
10. \*Disney Princess dolls
11. My little Pony
12. Little girl’s dress-up kits

School Age/ Ages 6-12

1. \*Baby dolls, Bratz dolls and Barbie dolls
2. \*Action Hero figures, toys and games (Any thing Spiderman/Batman/Superman are very popular)
3. Sporting equipment (footballs, soccer balls, baseball gloves)
4. Remote control toys
5. \*Bionical lego kits
6. Board games and puzzles
7. \*Age appropriate make-up kits (this is always a big hit with the “Tweens”)

Teens/Ages 13 – 17

1. \*DVD movies (Any non R-rated movie )
2. \*50 NP3/Ipod players
3. \*100 BlockBusters Gift cards \$10 ea.
4. \*100 Fast Foods coupons

\*Items that are most needed.

## Toy Safety Guidelines

**\*Please be aware of the following toy safety guidelines when purchasing your donations:**

- Clothing, toys and stuffed animals must be new.
- New stuffed toys can only be accepted if they are filled with fabric or solid foam. No shredded foam, small pellets, or beans can be used as fillers. Avoid stuffed animals with detachable parts (button eyes) which can be removed and swallowed or inhaled. We cannot accept new ones that smell of smoke.
- Infant toys should meet Consumer Product Safety codes. The package will tell you if they meet the codes.
- If purchasing a toy that requires batteries, please include appropriate size of battery with toy.
- Fire regulations forbid spark-producing or friction-producing toys.
- Toys should be sturdy. Avoid toys which can break and leave sharp edges. No toys should be made of glass or brittle plastic.
- Toys with numerous small parts, which require close supervision, are not appropriate for younger children.
- “Humorous” medical toys and games can cause fears and misconceptions and are therefore inappropriate.
- Painted toys should be non-toxic. Any glue or paint in craft kits MUST be non-toxic.
- Although the “dollar stores” have real bargains, sometimes the quality is absent. We would rather have one good rattle that meets safety standards than five inexpensive ones.
- Latex (or rubber) balloons are not allowed in the hospital because of latex allergy precautions and other safety factors. Mylar balloons are permitted.

**Contact: Lacey Webster,  
Program Manager, Public Partnerships and Tangible Gifting  
713-566-6409**