



Child Life

What is a Child Life Specialist?

A Child Life Specialist is part of the multi-disciplinary team at the American Family Children's Hospital. Certified Child Life Specialists (CCLS), all of whom have degrees in Child Life, Therapeutic Recreation or related fields, work with patients and families to promote a positive hospital experience. By providing a variety of programs, we help our patients and families cope with hospitalization, illness, diagnosis and treatment. We respond to children's unique needs by maintaining developmental and normal living patterns to minimize anxieties and maximize coping. We support the child and family's emotional and psychosocial needs in the inpatient units, the Emergency Department and Pediatric Specialty Clinics.

WHAT DOES OUR CHILD LIFE PROGRAM INCLUDE?

Pre-admission orientation/surgical preparation and tour

An orientation and tour of American Family Children's Hospital is offered Monday through Friday. Arrangements can be made for a tour by contacting the Child Life Department. Preparation and a tour of the hospital can reduce anxiety and let patients ask questions about admission in a safe setting.

Procedural preparation and support

Child Life Specialists are available when your child has to undergo a medical procedure. The Child Life Specialists offer suggestions and support to help your child cope with procedures. A Child Life Specialist can help ease your child's fears by focusing his or her attention on something fun or relaxing such as blowing bubbles, singing, listening to music or reading books.

Therapeutic/Medical Play

Child Life Specialists provide opportunities for your child to have hands-on experience with medical equipment. Through exploration and play, children learn about the hospital and gain a sense of control in a non-threatening way.

Pet Pals

The pet therapy program, known as Pet Pals, is held every Tuesday evening and Saturday afternoon. This program is coordinated with the UW-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine. It provides patients and families with therapeutic opportunities to interact with trained therapy dogs.

Special activities and events

An activity calendar is posted in each patient's room and each activity area. Age-appropriate, scheduled activities are held daily. There are several special events and meals that are held throughout the month as well.

Kids as Partners (KAP) and the Teen Advisory Board (TAB)

Facilitated by Child Life Specialists, these groups represent present and former American Family Children's Hospital patients, ages 8-18, offering suggestions to help make the hospital more child-friendly and to focus on children's issues and ways to improve the health care of all children.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

American Family Children's Hospital volunteers are an integral part of the Child Life program. They assist the Child Life staff in many areas including the playroom, hospital school, teen lounge, clinics, and the emergency department.

For more information about these programs, Tyler's Place and the Parent and Child Preparation program, please contact the Department of Patient and Family Services at (608) 890-7888 or visit our website at www.uwhealth.org/kids.

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ACTIVITY AREAS

Playroom - Level 5

Room 5404
(608) 890-8339

Hospital School and Teen Lounge - Level 5

Room 5440
(608) 263-8174

Hematology/Oncology Playroom - Level 4

Room 4106
(608) 890-8215

Hematology/Oncology School & Teen Lounge - Level 4

Room 4108
(608) 890-8211

Special Procedures Clinic Playroom - Level 1

Room 1207
(608) 890-8399

