



Child Life Services for Neonatal Patients

Child Life Specialists are members of the healthcare team and empower children, adolescents and their families to master challenging life events related to illness, injury and hospitalization. Child Life is available to help you and your family understand and cope with the hospital stay of your baby in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and the Neonatal Special Care Unit (NSCU).

The care we provide is based on the highly specialized Child Life assessment process with continuous evaluation and reassessment of intervention and priorities. Our Specialists make every attempt to meet the emotional, developmental and psychosocial needs of our patients and their families with emphasis on understanding the illness or injury and progression to an optimal level of wellness. Child Life Specialists strive to make hospitalization a less stressful experience for both the patient and the family.

Our Child Life Specialists in the NICU / NSCU...

- Provide age-appropriate play, containment, holding and other comfort measures to our neonatal patients
- Support your family emotionally by helping you adjust to your baby's illness, hospitalization and treatment
- Prepare, educate and support the patient's siblings about the neonatal settings during their first visit and throughout the patient's hospitalization to them cope and develop a positive relationship with their new baby brother or sister
- Supply educational information to the parent(s)/grandparent(s) or primary caretaker(s) about the baby's hospitalization in the neonatal setting
- Coordinate special projects and events such as scrapbooking, sibling groups, family nights and parent projects
- Furnish information and intervention to assist siblings, children and families with issues of death and dying and the grief process

Reasons to Contact Child Life

- Your baby needs extra cuddling or holding
- Your baby needs developmentally appropriate activities and playtime, or toys
- Your baby needs support during or after a painful procedure
- Your baby has a brother or sister who needs help understanding or coping with their sibling being in the hospital
- You need help or information on ways that you can care for and play with your baby during hospitalization
- You would like someone to listen to you and provide support during a difficult time

Feel free to contact the Child Life department with any questions at 713.704.2066 or extension 4-2066 from a hospital phone.



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