



A Child Life Specialist...

Through the Eyes of a Child

Saint Joseph's Children's Hospital
Marshfield Wisconsin

A Child Life Specialist . . .

Usually works in a hospital or clinic with doctors, nurses, and other therapists and specialists.



Being At The Hospital/Clinic Can Be A Very Scary Time For Children



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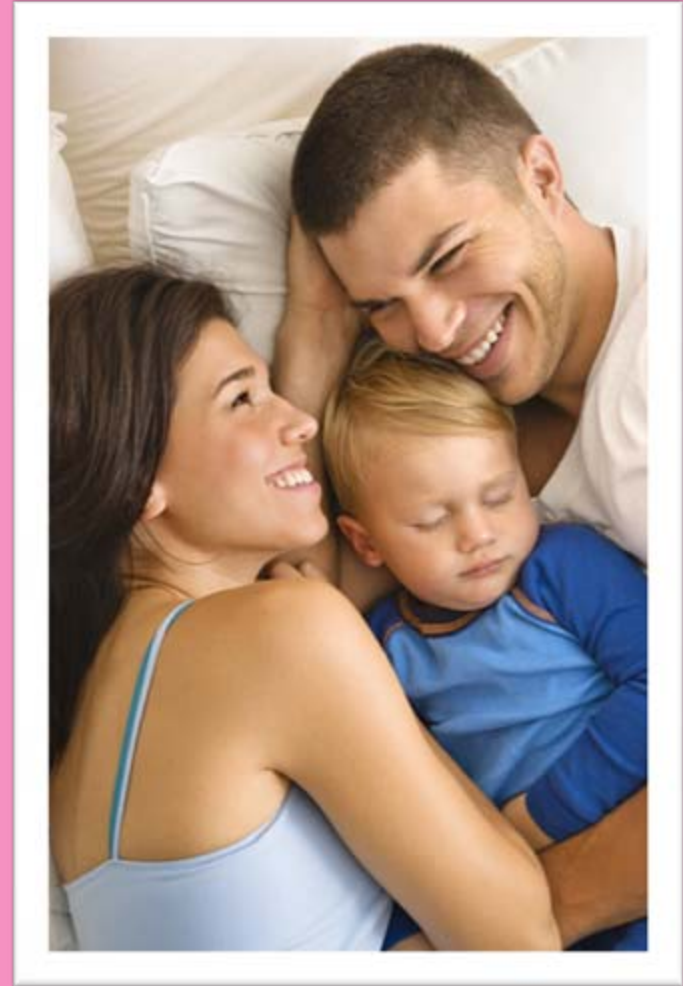
A Child Life Specialist. . .

- Helps make the hospital or clinic less scary for the children there.
- Helps children feel more comfortable and safe at the hospital or clinic.
- Helps children have fun while at the doctor or in the hospital.



Child Life Specialists...

- Talk with moms, dads, brothers, and sisters to help them understand big words they may hear in the hospital or clinic.
- Can be a safe person a child can talk to about their worries.



A Child Life Specialist Could Help Kids By . . .

- Giving tours of the hospital before kids come for surgery.
- Showing them real medical equipment the nurses and doctors might use.
- Showing patients and families what their room will look like on the pediatric unit.



A Child Life Specialist...



Spends time playing with and getting to know each child in the hospital.

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A Child Life Specialist . . .

www.lpfch.org

Would do fun activities with children to take their mind off being in the hospital/clinic or scary procedures.



Provides distraction like *I Spy* books, bubbles, and squish balls when it's time to get an IV (medicine that goes in your vein through a straw).

May help you understand procedures by showing you pictures and answering your questions before the procedures happen.

A Child Life Specialist Helps Children

By . . .

Keeping track of important information such as what each child likes to play with and knowing when their parents want a break so a volunteer can play with patients and their siblings.



Writing down all the activities he/she does with each patient and how play helps them feel better, stronger, and more relaxed.

A Child Life Specialist . . .

Make sure all the fun toys and activities in the playroom are safe and clean.



Child Life Specialists...



Remind parents, doctors, and nurses that play is good for Children. It helps them express their feelings to their family, friends, and other loved ones.

Therapeutic Play in Pediatric Health Care: The Essence of Child Life Practice, Koller

Some Scientists Say...

That playing in the hospital helps children be less afraid and nervous. Playing helps children feel better and more like home while they are in the hospital.



Some Scientists Also Say . . .

Playing helps children be more calm, have healthier blood pressure, and healthier heart rates when they are scared.



Child Life Specialists...

- Help children find fun ways to learn about their own health.



- Learn about your body at
- www.kidshealth.org

- Learn how children in England teach each other about asthma by playing some games: www.bubbliboo.com

Your Child Life Specialist...

Can't wait to meet YOU!



Play keeps us vital and alive. It gives us an enthusiasm for life that is irreplaceable. Without it, life just doesn't taste good.

~Lucia Capacchione



Saint Joseph's *Children's* Hospital

MINISTRY HEALTH CARE

MARSHFIELD, WISCONSIN

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