

**Jacobi Medical Center**  
**Department of Pediatrics**  
**Position: Child Life Specialist**

**POLICY:**

To ensure appropriate utilization of the Child Life Program by all Pediatric Staff.

The child life program is an essential element of comprehensive pediatric patient care, recognized by the American Academy of Pediatrics for the care of children's health. This program is designed to serve the emotional, developmental, educational, and recreational needs of hospitalized children and their families. In an effort to meet this goal, the child life specialist provides individual and group therapeutic interventions on the inpatient pediatric unit and the pediatric intensive care unit.

Some services utilized by the program include foster grandparents, volunteers, students and interns. Activities include, but are not limited to, holiday celebrations and recreations activities.

No procedures or examinations are ever performed in the playroom. In addition, developmentally appropriate patient teaching is provided to children and families. The concepts taught are reinforced during medical play sessions.

**Description:**

1. Assess the developmental level of pediatric patients and provide appropriate therapeutic intervention and activities.
2. Evaluate the patient's emotional reactions to hospitalization.
3. Collaborate with health care team members to develop and implement a treatment plan which allows for a positive psychological outcome.
4. Develop and implement in-service education for house staff, nurses, ancillary staff, students, and volunteers.
5. Provide teaching for patients and families.
6. Provide support before, during, and after surgery and procedures.
7. Advocate for an environment conducive to the provision of family centered care.
8. Recruit, orient and supervise students and volunteers who assist in providing play activities.
9. Develop and maintain a safe, aesthetically pleasing environment which is appropriately equipped to meet program goals.