

Guidelines for Playroom Visitors and Craft Projects

Seattle Children's Hospital welcomes special entertainment and special visitors to support our patients and families through music, magic, drama, dance, and other joyful activities.

The following guidelines apply to all individuals, groups and special visitors and have been developed to offer our patients the most enjoyment while meeting important clinical, safety and infection control policies. They will help you, and the patients and families, have a positive, memorable visit.



Information and Visiting Policies

All visits must be arranged and approved by the Child Life Department (206-987-4133) and will be held in the Playroom.

Visits are scheduled when the hospital's Playroom is having open play sessions:

10 a.m. – noon
Monday – Saturday

2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Monday – Thursday, Saturday, Sunday

6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Monday – Thursday

Maximum size for visiting groups is 5 people for craft activities.

Non-participating members of any special group will be asked to remain in the Playroom or visit other areas of the hospital such as our Sound Café, Tully's Espresso Stand or Family Resource Center, which are all located on the 5th floor.

If your guild or group would like to come for a one-day activity, here are some ideas for the types of projects you might do:

- Basketry
- Bead projects
- Finger painting
- Holiday crafts
- Leather project
- Make hemp jewelry
- Scrapbooks
- Make journals
- Mosaic tile projects
- Needlework
- Ceramics painting
- Paper mâché
- Pillowcase painting
- Frames
- Hand puppets
- Puppet show
- Sand art
- Stamping
- Sculpey/Fimo clay
- Tie-dye
- T-shirt painting

When Planning an Activity:

- Projects should be scheduled with Child Life Department in advance.
- Choose an activity you would like to work on with the patients and their families. Gather the supplies you need for your activity and bring these with you.
- Ages in the playroom can range from infant up to 12 years and in some cases teens may participate. Please be prepared for all age groups. A simpler version of the same activity for the younger kids works well.
- All individuals working directly with our patients must be at least 16 years of age.
- The activity should be something that only takes about 30 minutes or so, and it works best if they can take the finished project with them when they leave.
- Attendance at play sessions varies; please be prepared for approximately 12 participants. We cannot predict how many will actually participate and you may have a very few. They may come and go as well.
- If a member of the group becomes ill, please substitute another member. *Or we can also reschedule.*

Gifts/Giveaways

Handouts and giveaways for patients should follow Children's toy safety and gift guidelines (please confirm in advance with the Child Life Department):

- Exclude any items with sharp edges, brittle plastic parts or choking hazards.
- No latex balloons.
- No food or candy.
- No used toys or toys that represent violence.
- Limit your donations to items that represent your group.
- Kids really appreciate pictures, posters or group memorabilia.
- Bring enough for every child you encounter, including brothers and sisters (approximately 100 items).

If unsure of allowable handout/giveaway items, please consult the Child Life Department prior to your visit. Other than these small giveaways, gifts may not be given directly to patients and families, including tickets to performances or events. The Child Life Department is happy to accept gifts or tickets for an individual child or for all patients. Tickets and gifts are distributed fairly in consideration of medical condition and treatment plans.

Costumes, Pets, Food and Safety

Costumes:

- Children may become frightened or upset when approached.
- Avoid frightening or potentially upsetting costumes. Make sure they are clean.
- Keep your distance until the child appears ready for interaction.
- Faces must be left unmasked and uncovered unless cleared by the Child Life Department.

Pets or other animals must be approved in advance by the Child Life Department.

Fire, candles, fireworks, knives, toy guns or other unsafe, frightening or potentially harmful materials may not be used as part of your visit.

No food (including candy) may be given to the patients.

Patient Interaction — the Fun Part!

When talking with patients and their families, please be positive and respectful.

- Make eye contact.
- Be consistent with every child, regardless of the child's appearance or physical condition.
- Focus your conversation away from issues of hospitalization and illness, such as, "What is wrong with you?" or "When will you get to go home?"
- Try talking about day-to-day life with questions like, "What's your favorite game, TV show, animal, book, etc.?"

Remember that all information regarding patients and families is private and confidential. Do not share personal information with patients and families or repeat the personal stories that they may share.

Children's serves children and families from a wide variety of religious, cultural and social backgrounds. Please keep your conversations neutral with no religious orientation.

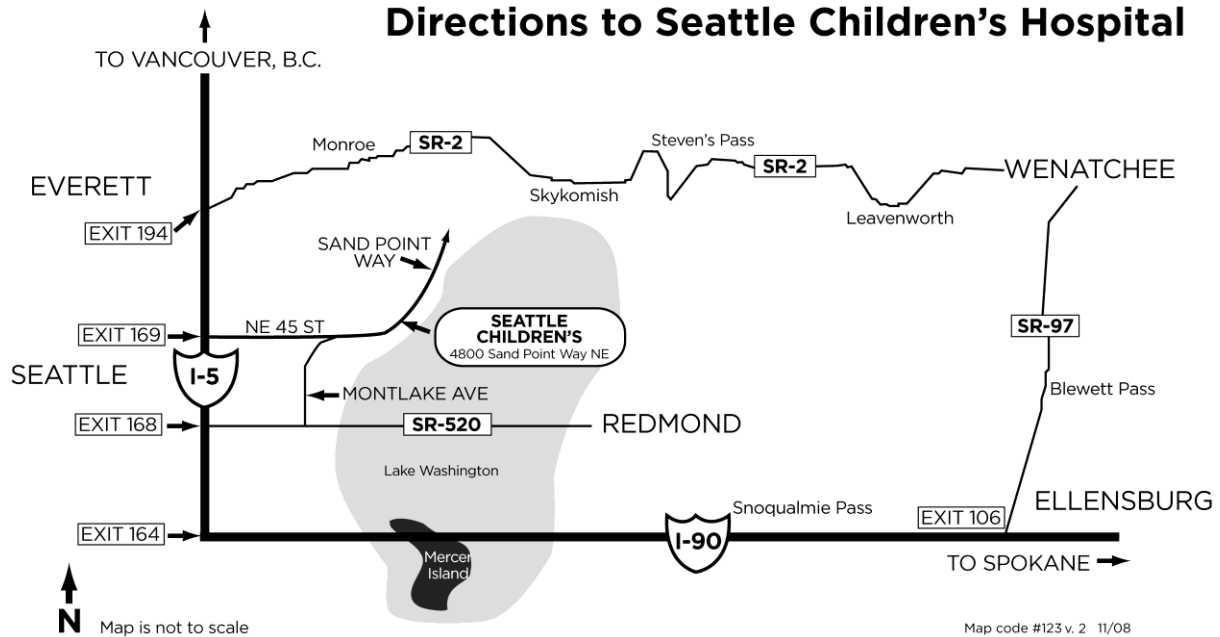
Being in the hospital is a stressful and often painful experience for children.

- They may react to your visit differently than when they are well and in their own community.
- Please be prepared for a variety of reactions, knowing that the children are enjoying the event in their own way.
- Ask the staff or volunteers for assistance if you are uncomfortable about an interaction with a child.

HAVE FUN!



Directions to Seattle Children's Hospital



Visitor Arrival Procedures

Enter Children's campus and park for free in the Giraffe parking lot, the first parking lot on the left when you drive up the hill. Follow the signs to the Giraffe entrance, check in at the Greeter's desk using your driver's license, then go to the Train elevators and take these to the second floor. If a staff member does not meet you, ask the Greeter for directions or use the greeter phone to call extension 7-4433 for assistance to the Playroom.

If parking is unavailable in the Giraffe lot, continue up the hill to the Whale Garage. Ask the Greeter for directions or use the greeter phone to call extension 7-4433.

Entertainment will ordinarily take place in the Playroom. Some groups may be cleared to tour patient care areas. These groups start their visit in the Playroom and are escorted by a staff member or an assigned volunteer.

Playroom

Location: Train 2, take Train elevators to 2nd floor. Turn right. Follow signs to the Child Life Department. 206-987-4433.