



ENTERTAINMENT GROUP GUIDELINES

Entertainment, such as a puppet show, a musical performance, or a celebrity/character visit can bring pleasure to a hospitalized child and his/her family. Your visit may be scheduled in an inpatient, outpatient or a specialty unit, based on patient need, availability, age, and other considerations. We cannot guarantee a large audience due to variable patient conditions and infection control realities. The following days and times are available for entertainment groups:

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	10:00-12:00	10:00-12:00	10:00-12:00	10:00-12:00
2:00-4:00	2:00-4:00	2:00-4:00	2:00-4:00	2:00-4:00

Your visit will be of greatest benefit if the following guidelines are followed:

- All community visits made to the patients of St. Joseph's Children's Hospital (SJCH) must be screened and approved in advance by the Child Life Department. Applications can be received by calling 813-554-8155 ext 4. **Please allow 2 weeks for application screening and booking.**
- Previous successful experience entertaining and visiting with children is essential.
- For infection control reasons, all community visitors **must be a minimum of 14 years old and in good health.** Anyone who has experienced exposure to or symptoms of flue, measles, mumps, hepatitis, chicken pox, rash, diarrhea, or vomiting within the past four weeks may not visit.
- Performances will take place in our main lobby waiting area. The number of patients able to attend will vary from 1 to 30.
- **All visiting groups must limit their group to 10 or less.**
- Our patients are a diverse population. We provide care for children and adolescents with a wide variety of illnesses and conditions. This may result in small audiences and in children with a short attention span. Be prepared for a diverse group of children. Events should be interactive and no more than 30 minutes in duration.
- Visitors should prepare to interact with sick children. Children may have physical changes or tubing that may be unfamiliar and can be frightening to some people. **Please refrain from strong emotional reactions, or questioning.**
- Performances or gifts must not include any potentially dangerous materials (such as latex balloons, fire, animals of any kind) or threatening themes (violence,

death, illness, or medical care, scary costumes, or costumes inappropriate for young children, etc.)

- **Because the children of SJCH are from a wide variety of religious, political and social backgrounds, we require that the content of any presentation be religiously and politically neutral.**
- Visitors may not distribute any toys, prizes, or gifts or food items unless expressly approved by the Child Life Department prior to the visitation dates.
- The privacy and confidentiality of our patients and families deserve our utmost respect. This means, among other things, that we **DO NOT ALLOW PHOTOGRAPHS** to be taken by visiting groups or individuals. (Photography by the media, with appropriate prior arrangements and parental consent is permitted.) Please respect patient/family rights for privacy and avoid sensitive topics. **Do not ask questions about diagnosis, age, length of hospital stay or plan for going home.**
- Media coverage, while not generally encouraged in order to maximize the benefit of the performance for the audience, will be considered based on the content and size of the performance. Media presence can detract from the performance and the children's experience due to lights, cameras and crowded conditions. **All media invitation or press releases must be coordinated with the hospital Public Relations Department at least one full week in advance.** To do this, please contact Amy Gall at 813-870-4731.