

Mattie Miracle Child Life Specialist

MedStar Georgetown University Hospital, Washington, DC

Position Summary: Reporting to the Child Life, Education & Arts Coordinator, the incumbent in this position is a member of an interdisciplinary health care team that provides optimal developmental and psychosocially appropriate care for pediatric patients and their families. A Child Life Specialist helps to assess children's developmental and coping needs and implements developmentally appropriate therapeutic interventions such as play, medical play, psychological preparation, and rehearsed coping to minimize distress associated with hospitalization and other medical experiences. These functions are performed in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations of the Child Life Council's professional standards of practice and MedStar Georgetown University Hospital's philosophy, policies, procedures, and standards.

Required Education and Training: Bachelor's degree in Child Life, Education, Psychology, Child Development, or a related field is required. Professionally certified child life specialist. In addition, may also hold certification as a recreational therapist, art therapist, drama therapist or dance/movement specialist.

Required Experience: Two years of experience as a child life specialist in an acute health care setting. Experience with children of all ages and developmental levels is preferred. Ability to assess and interact with patients and families applying theories of human growth and development, family systems, and cultural diversity. Excellent interpersonal communication skills and ability to organize and prioritize work. Must be able to develop and implement developmentally appropriate therapeutic activities programs for pediatric patients and their families. In-depth understanding of the effects of hospitalization on children's growth and development, and on family dynamics. Ability to have in-depth understanding of the effects of hospitalization on children's growth and development, and on family dynamics. Ability to represent and communicate role of Child Life Specialist to others. Ability to communicate effectively verbally and in writing. Ability to work as a member of an interdisciplinary healthcare team. Ability to organize and prioritize work.