

Entertainment such as a musical performance or celebrity visit can bring pleasure to a hospitalized child and their family. The day of your visit will be successful when following the guidelines outlined below.

Planning your visit

1. All visiting groups/performers will be screened and approved in advance by the Child Life and Creative Arts Therapies Program.
2. Previous experience entertaining and visiting with children is required. Please submit a letter of recommendation, brief video or audio file and/or web link with the completed application.
3. Entertainer considerations:
 - All entertainers must be at least 16 years old and in good health.
 - To comply with the hospital visitor policy and infection control standards, children under the age of 16 (*and additional family members not performing*) may not be present during the program.
 - Any entertainer who has been exposed to/has symptoms of flu, COVID-19, measles, mumps, hepatitis, chicken pox, rash, diarrhea or vomiting within the past four weeks may not visit.
4. Most events take place in small areas where space is limited. For this reason, visitors/entertainers are asked to limit the size of the group to eight people. Any group exceeding that number must be officially approved by the Child Life and Creative Arts Therapies team.

The Day of your Visit

1. Children's Wisconsin cares for children with many needs and considerations. The audience will vary (i.e. number of children able to attend, length of time they are able to participate, attention span). Events should be interactive and run 30-40 minutes.
2. The following types of clothing are not permitted:
 - open toed shoes
 - logo t-shirts with inappropriate slogans
 - short skirts
 - tank tops
 - low cut tops
 - hats (unless it is part of an identified uniform)
3. Tattoos must be child friendly-any tattoo considered offensive (ex: profanity, racial in nature) is to be covered so it is not visible or exposed.
4. Visitors/entertainers may not hand out toys, prizes, gifts or food items unless previously approved by the Child Life and Creative Arts Therapies team.
5. Children in the audience come from many backgrounds. Presentations or

performances should not contain religious or political content.

6. Groups should come prepared with all equipment or materials that are needed to facilitate a successful visit. Performances may not include materials that are potentially harmful (*latex balloons, fire hazards such as silly string, or contain themes such as violence, death, illness, medical care*).
7. Children's Wisconsin maintains strict rules surrounding the privacy of the patients.
 - a. Written consents are required prior to photographing or videotaping a patient/family. Child Life and Creative Arts Therapies work in collaboration with Compliance, Risk and Marketing to assure the appropriate documentation is completed at the start of any event.
 - b. Visitors/entertainers should not ask personal questions about a child's medical condition, family situation, treatment protocol and/or prognosis.
8. Requests for media coverage are evaluated based on the content, size, and purpose of the visit/performance. Media presence can distract from the patient experience by limiting participation due to the need to have consents for all participants. Media invitations or press releases will be coordinated with Children's Marketing Department at least a week in advance of the visit.
9. Children's Wisconsin is not responsible for any injury, loss of personal belongings or equipment during the visit.
10. Child Life and Creative Arts Therapies reserves the right to cancel special programs at any time if they are thought to be inappropriate or unsafe for the patients or are of specific concern to the hospital.

Tips to Make your Visit Successful

1. Approach children slowly and quietly. Let children decide to what extent they wish to interact with you. If the child shows any resistance to greeting you, do not persist (*and don't take it personally*).
2. Successful events are those which appeal to children of all ages and invite participation. Asking open-ended questions, providing rhythm instruments, and engaging children in an arts and crafts project provide a connection between the visitor/performer and the children and families.
3. Seek the advice of the Child Life and Creative Arts Therapies team if you have questions about the performance or the children's needs.
4. Smile and enjoy yourself. Remember that children in the hospital are still children!