



# Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center

Catholic Health Services

At the heart of health

## **CHOOSING TOYS FOR HOSPITALIZED PATIENTS:**

**Frequently asked questions:**

### **Why do children need toys in the hospital?**

**Hospitalization can be very stressful on children and their parents. Familiar toys and projects help children feel more comfortable and pass the time by providing an interesting educational distraction. Toys that reduce stress and engage attention in colorful, musical and soothing ways help children feel better and heal faster.**

### **Can I bring my gently used toys?**

**Because some hospitalized children may have allergies or other sensitivities to toys that have already been played with, we cannot accept gently used toys. New toys (unwrapped for the first time in the hospital playroom) ensure that all children will be allowed to play with them.**

### **Are there any other guidelines I should follow?**

**Toys made of strong, safe plastic are the safest and easiest to keep clean. Children who are stressed need calming and soothing toys. Please do not bring toys with violent themes or that shoot or launch missiles, cars or planes. Please avoid plush toys (stuffed animals, etc.) because it is hard to make sure they remain clean.**

### **What about books?**

**Children love books and so do we. We suggest books with short stories, especially picture books. Just like toys, all books must be brand new. For infants and toddlers, board books (books with cardboard covers and pages) are always appreciated.**

### **What toys do you need most?**

**Whether children are receiving toys as gifts for birthdays or holidays, or whether they are playing with borrowed toys from our playroom collection, we try to provide the same developmentally appropriate, safe, well-made toys. The list below suggests toys that are useful to a therapeutic playroom. The list is divided into six categories: Infant; Toddler; Pre-School; School-Age; Tweens and Adolescents. The list is meant only as a guide. We welcome your ideas regarding favorite brand names and quality toys. If you have any questions about toy brands or themes, please call us at (631) 376-3717.**

### **Should I wrap my gifts?**

**We prefer that you do not wrap gifts. That way we can see gifts and match the best gift to each child. If you wish, you can include gift bags in your donation. If you feel you must wrap your gifts, please use clear cellophane as used in gift baskets.**

### **PLAYROOM TOYS FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS**

*Infants and young toddlers need play and distraction when they are in the hospital. Toys for hospital playrooms and bedsides should be plastic so they can be cleaned easily between uses, durable (made by manufacturers who are responsible for the quality and safety of their product) and developmentally appropriate (designed by companies that are interested in promoting learning and are educated in the different needs and abilities of small children). Toys that roll, invite visual discrimination, make soothing and delightful sounds or music and promote problem solving are very useful in therapeutic playrooms and programs.*

*All items must be sturdy plastic so that they can be washed. Plush and cloth toys should be avoided because we cannot clean them.*

#### **Examples of sturdy playroom toys**

- Laugh & Learn™ toys by Fisher Price
- Peek-a-Blocks™ toys by Fisher Price
- Roll-a-Rounds™ toys by Fisher Price
- See'n Say toys by Fisher Price
- Rainforest, Waterfall or other Soothers by Fisher Price
- Little People™ toys by Fisher Price
- Any sturdy toys

#### **Gift Suggestions**

To help you decide what toys are best for children of different age groups, some ideas for toys are listed below. While you are not limited to the items on this list, we ask that you refrain from toys with sharp edges, toys with glass or very fragile parts, weapons and war toys.

#### **Toys for infants (birth – 12 months)**

Rattles	Squeak toys
Baby Blankets	Baby clothes and socks
Shapes puzzle box	Board books
Infant activity centers	Busy Boxes
Toys with lights and sounds	Electronic/push button toys
Sippy cups	Blocks and sorting toys

#### **Toys for Toddlers (12 – 36 months)**

Musical/ push button books	Popular Character toys (like Dora, Disney)
Fisher Price toys	Toy appliances (play phone, radio, etc.)
Transportation vehicles	Pop-up toys
V-tech toys	See & Say
Pounding toys	Snap and lock beads

#### **Toys for Pre-School Age Children**

Pretend play toys	Farm animals
Little Tikes	Fisher Price Toys
Plastic food sets	Wood Puzzles
Garages/cars	Dolls

Disney toys  
Popular character toys  
V-Tech Toys

Play Dough  
Early Childhood puzzles  
Super hero and Action figure toys

**Toys for School Aged Children**

Puzzles	Board Games	Latest computer linked toy
Dolls	Matchbox cars	Transformers and Action Figures
Art kits	Snap Model kits	Latest movie theme toys
Bead kits	Super Hero Toys	Board Games
Computer games	Magic kits	Littlest Pet Shop
Barbie and similar dolls	Sponge Bob toys	Latest puzzle toy

Newest fad themed games (Angry Birds, for example)  
Star Wars or latest adventure theme toys  
Battery controlled and operated cars  
Building toys- Lego and other brands  
Popular toys with famous themes (Disney, Movie, Classic)

**Items for "Tweens"**

Nail polish/make-up sets	Fun Tees, socks or slippers
Intricate craft kit	Current popular movie theme items
Model sets	Intricate puzzles and hand held games
Building sets for older kids( Lego, etc.)	Handheld game systems
Comedy/Adventure DVDs, (G or PG)	Popular books
Sports themed items	Sports, movie and fashion magazines
Inexpensive handbags , bracelets, etc.	Art supplies or Kits
iTunes gift cards	

**Items for Adolescents**

Adolescent DVD's (G or PG)	iTunes gift cards
Nail polish/make-up sets	Inexpensive bracelets, necklaces
Intricate craft kit	Brain teasers and skill puzzles
Model sets	Journals
Intricate puzzles and hand held games	MP3 Players
Building Sets for older kits.( Lego, etc.)	Handheld game systems
Sports themed items	Comedy/Adventure DVDs (PG or PG-13)
Art supplies or kits	Popular books, special interest books
Magazines	Soduko, crossword, word search books
UNO playing cards	
Games for Playstation II and Xbox 360 (GA and Teen only)	
Adolescent clothing – sports items, slippers, T-shirts	
Twilight and other current popular movie theme items	

***PLEASE AVOID:***

***Please refrain from war toys or toys that shoot missiles, water or any other substance. Please use your judgment regarding small parts (which can be easily lost in busy hospital environments) and other items that may break easily. All toys should be plastic for easy cleaning.***

## **Other Suggestions**

Gift Certificates in \$ 5 or \$10 dollar amounts enable us to shop for holidays, birthdays, provide necessary toys for children in the playroom, and special gifts that lift spirits and support children with special needs. Gift certificates are easy to store and readily available for any need and any developmental level. Gift certificates from the following stores (or from a local store of your choosing) will make a child's stay better, even after the holidays are over.

*Blockbuster*  
*Wal-mart*  
*iTunes*

*Babies 'R' Us*  
*Toys 'R' Us*  
*Target*

*Barnes & Noble*  
*Kohl's*  
*Michael's (Arts and Crafts)*

## **BIG ITEMS**

**WE** are always in need of items which serve the children while they are hospitalized such as:

**Portable DVD Players**

**Portable Netbooks**

**Playroom Computer and three in one printer (plus extra inks)**

**Digital (Snapshot) Camera**

**IPAD**

**Any further questions or ideas, please feel free to call us at (631) 376-3717**

**Thank you,  
The Child Life Program**