

Child Life Philosophy Statement

I believe the role of a child life specialist is to promote healing through play and expression and focus on empowering patients and families through education and coping. Every patient has a story that is uniquely their own and it is my goal to provide opportunities for play, emotional expression, education, and coping by assessing the needs of my patients and creating individualized care plans.

Play is a child's native language and an essential part of childhood. Play is how children learn, interact with the world and gain the necessary skills to succeed in adulthood. Hospitalization presents an unfamiliar environment and impacts when and how children engage in play. It is my goal to promote normalization and mastery of the hospital environment through play and to provide opportunities for play to foster normal social, emotional, and cognitive development.

I will utilize my expertise in child development, psychology, family-centered care, sociology, and family dynamics to not only provide appropriate interventions but to also educate my peers in other disciplines on how to effectively meet a child's psychosocial, emotional, and developmental needs. I will reference skills I mastered as a teacher to effectively communicate with patients, families, and members of the multidisciplinary care team.

By recognizing a parent as the expert on their child, I will strive to uphold the values of family-centered care and advocate for the needs of my patients and their families with the goal of minimizing the adverse effects of hospitalization.

I will always believe in the power of play. I will always empower my patients and families and advocate for their best interests. I am committed to providing high quality care and building meaningful, therapeutic relationships with the families I serve. Knowing I have the tools to empower children and see them transform from scared to confident will always fuel my work as a child life specialist.

Angela Lassiter