

School Programs

School plays a critical role in every child's development. At Texas Children's Hospital we offer two school programs to allow your child to continue their academic goals. To arrange for your child to participate in a school program please contact your Child Life Activity Coordinator.

The Learning Lab

- For students hospitalized for less than 4 weeks and are in grades K-12th. Tutors are available help with school assignments during hospitalization.

HISD Program

- For students hospitalized for 4 weeks or more. The student has the option to enroll in the Houston Independent School District program at TCH to be taught by Texas certified teacher.

About Child Life

At Texas Children's Hospital, we understand a visit to the hospital can be challenging for your child and family. Child Life Specialists are available to ease your child's anxiety and help him or her feel more comfortable in the hospital.

They use age-appropriate explanations to help children know what to expect while at the hospital. Child Life Specialists also know that the hospital can bring up different feelings for your child. Therefore, they will work with you to support your child's emotional needs. Child Life Specialists also provide play opportunities to support your child's growth and development.



**Texas Children's
Hospital**[®]

Contact your child life specialist to learn more about helping your school age child cope with hospitalization.

A PARENT'S GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING THE HOSPITALIZED CHILD



School Age
(6-12 years old)

Potential Stressors during Hospitalization

- Possible misunderstanding of illness, medical treatments or environment
- Concerned about changes to their body
- Feelings of helplessness or loss of control



- Separation from parents, siblings, and peers
- Changes to normal routine
- Embarrassed to tell the hospital staff about their bodily function
- Concerned about pain or bodily injury
- Increased dependence on adults

Foundations of School Age Development

During this stage of development children are building their self-esteem and confidence through their interactions with others. School age children benefit from social interactions with friends, teachers, and adults in their community. They are seeking peer approval and have a strong desire to fit in. Through exploring interests and likes they are developing a sense of self.



Helping your child cope with hospitalization



- When possible, allow your child to have control by providing appropriate choices
- Give honest, non-threatening explanations
- Allow opportunities to engage with siblings and family members
- Maintain daily routines as much as possible
- Provide activities they enjoy at home such as arts and crafts, journaling, playing games, reading, and socializing with peers
- Maintain school connection and interaction with peers at home
- Provide opportunities to be successful and independent
- Explain physical changes to their body and how long they will last