

## Deaconess Riley Children's Services

### Activity & Craft Bags Ideas

#### Activity Bags

Patients and families may have a long wait to see the medical staff, need to visit many doctors or staff members in one day, and a long drive to and from the hospital. Giving them something to do when they are here helps to make the day go easier, and help them to see their hospital visit in a more positive way. Quart or Gallon Size resealable baggies are perfect for these items. These can be mass produced to reach a large population of any age child.

Here are some ideas that work well and a supply list for making activity bags for the children:

- Activity books, mazes, crosswords (school-agers or teens) - include pencils, pens, crayons, markers or gel pens.
- Plastic stencils, paper and pencils
- Plastic "texture" rubbings for crayons/paper
- Stickers and notepad
- Origami kit - with paper and directions
- Deck of cards or games
- Beads to make bracelets (i.e. friendship bracelets with embroidery floss, new shoe strings or pipe cleaners.
- Mad Libs with pencil, pens or gel pens
- Picture frames - frames made out of craft sticks or foam. Include glue, sequins, fabric scraps, or anything to decorate frames.
- Door Signs - pre-cut plain door signs. Include crayons, markers, stickers, foam stickers, etc. to decorate.
- Playdoh bags - include can of playdoh and a couple of cookie cutters
- Paper bag puppets - include paper bag, markers, crayons, cutouts for eyes, ears, hair, mouth, etc. Include other items such as glue feathers, felt, or other accessories.
- Foam craft kits - these can be made individually or purchased at any craft store
- Any seasonal or holiday craft kits -

#### Guidelines

1. Before getting started, please WASH YOUR HANDS with soap and water.
2. ALL items must be safe. Do not put anything in the bag that could choke a child, or hurt them like sharp objects.
3. The items must be new, not used.
4. DO NOT put food or candy in the bags, please.
5. Please do not buy items with latex in them. We cannot accept latex balloons.
6. Please do not put in chalk. The dust may bother a child with asthma or pulmonary problems.
7. If you must store your supplies, please do so in a clean, non-musty place. Cover the items with plastic wrap if not in a box.
8. Please try to buy items that can be used by all our families. Some families may not celebrate the same holidays. Choose items (especially coloring/activity pages) that are "neutral". For example, use pictures with snowmen or evergreens, not Christmas trees.
9. It may be easier to make different set of bags. For example, have one set of bags for younger children, and another set for older children. Or, if you could make a set for boys or for girls. Please label each bag with permanent marker with the age for which it should be used (like "preschool age" or "teenager").
10. Donations may be brought to the Deaconess Gateway Information Desk. Please include your name, address and phone so that we may properly thank you with a note. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Lantaff, Child Life Assistant, at 812-842-3834.

**Thank you for joining us in this important mission!**