

CHILD LIFE SERVICES

The **Pediatric Department** at Tripler Army Medical Center is staffed by a professionally trained individual who helps to reduce the stress and anxiety that children and their families may encounter as a result of illness, injury and hospitalization. Aiming to create a more positive learning experience, a certified **Child Life Specialist** works closely with the entire health care team on the pediatric inpatient units, specialty care clinics and in the diagnostic outpatient areas to provide the highest quality care for children of all ages.

Services Provided by Child Life

- Education about medical diagnoses and treatment; age-appropriate preparation for tests, procedures and surgeries (including pre-op tours)
- Play and other activities in fully-equipped playrooms and at the bedside
- Relaxation training, distraction and coping support before and during medical procedures
- Therapeutic play, including medical play, to help children express fears and feelings and learn techniques for coping with stress or crisis
- Family member support (such as sibling orientation for intensive care unit visits, support for parents to assist their children during medical procedures)
- Support, resources, and school re-entry program for children returning to school with a chronic illness
- Coordination of special events for patients and families
- Palliative care and bereavement services to children of adult patients

To contact the child life specialist assigned to various units or clinics in the hospital, or for information about any of these services, please contact Child Life Services at 808-433-3985.