

Healthy Partnerships: Creating an Early Literacy Outreach Partnership for Hospitalized Children

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Who to know

- Child Life Specialists
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Social Workers
- Hospital Librarian

What to ask

- Do you have a recreational space for your (pediatric) patients? May I come see it?
- Do you provide programs in that space? Who schedules them?
- Does your hospital have existing literacy initiatives?
- What training and health tests are expected of non-employees working inside the hospital?
- What would the hospital like to get from a partnership with the library?

What to offer

- Early Literacy Storytime
- Every Child Ready to Read
- Staff and volunteer information sessions
- Clinic waiting rooms

What to take

- Instruments - disinfected and easy to clean
- Books
 - New books - for giveaways or reading aloud
 - Library books - only with permission; patients cannot touch
- Felt board, puppets, etc. - only with permission; patients cannot touch
- Materials for library card sign up, clipboard, pens - consult library policy
- Bookmarks, stickers
- Calendars, program flyers, map of libraries
- Activities (for clinic settings) - watch for choking hazards

Sample storytime structure (based on Mother Goose on the Loose)

Set up
Opening remarks
Rhymes & Reads
Knee Bounce
Animals
Instruments
Drum
Lullaby
Closing
Answer questions, card sign-up, book giveaway
