



Toy and Gift Safety Guidelines

Thank you for your interest in donating to the patients of Texas Children's Hospital. Texas Children's is committed to the health and safety of our patients, therefore the following guidelines have been established for gift donations.

- All items must be new and in original packaging.
- Please do not gift wrap items. All donations are evaluated for safety and appropriateness.
- Texas Children's is a non-denominational organization therefore we are not able to accept any religious items.
- Our patients range in age from newborn to older teens. Please give consideration to items being age appropriate. For example, we are not able to accept DVDs that are rated R or PG-13.
- Due to varying dietary restrictions, food or candy may not be given to patients.
- Messages should be lighthearted and bright. Please do not say "Get Well Soon," but instead "Bringing You Sunshine" or "You're a Great Kid."
- Please deliver holiday items at least a week in advance to provide adequate time to share items with our patients.
- Please include batteries when donating toys that require them.
- We cannot accept sporting equipment, toy guns, remote controlled planes, large toy sets (kitchens, tool benches), glass items, makeup or lotion.
- We are unable to accept new or used large stuffed animals (3 ft. or taller), bean bags, bicycles, art work, and/or train sets that require a large space.

The following are some suggestions of items that are always in need and appreciated by our patients and families:

Infants:

Crib mobiles
Musical stuffed animals
Cradle gyms
Soft rubber dolls
Fisher Price brand toys & rattles
Infant mirrors
Sassy brand items
Receiving blankets
Infant links

Toddlers:

Wooden puzzles
Musical toys & boxes
Fisher-Price brand toys
Playskool brand toys
Push/pull toys
Dolls & action figures
Play-Doh (non-toxic)
Tonka brand toys
Matchbox cars
Buddy-L vehicles

School aged:

Board games- simple, 2+ players
Activity books
50 piece puzzles
Craft/paint/model sets
Etch-a-sketch
Coloring books
Crayons & markers (non-toxic)
DVDs (rated G and PG)

Adolescents:

Sudoku puzzles
Hair supplies/accessories
Cross stitch sets
Lego sets
Playing cards (Uno, Skip-bo)
Board games (Chess, Connect 4)
PlayStation 2 and Wii games (rated G or PG-13)
Advanced craft/paint/model sets
Handheld video games
DVDs (rated G or PG)
Coloring books for adults
100+ piece puzzles

New Non-Toy Items

- Care kits including: travel size toothbrush, toothpaste, mouthwash, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, soap, disposable razors, shaving cream, comb, hairbrush, and/or lotion.
- New clothing such as plain colored pajama pants, elastic waist shorts, t-shirts, socks, slippers, underwear and onesies.
- Fun colored blankets and pillows to brighten patient rooms.
- We cannot accept donations of flowers or balloons, however these items may be purchased through the hospital gift shops.

Activities and Handmade Items

- Craft packets that include premade supplies that a patient can work on in their room unsupervised. Examples include door hangers, nametags, or small crafts. Place all items in a Ziploc bag with simple instructions a child can follow.
- Activity books that contain a few coloring pages, word finds, or crosswords. You can make packets with 5 pages, hole punch one corner and connect with a ribbon for a customized, possibly seasonally inspired, activity packet.
- For handmade activities, we ask that you exclude markers, buttons, ribbon or glitter. However crayons may be used and lamination is acceptable, but not necessary.
- Decorated pillowcases using tie-dye, fabric paint, or sewn from fun child friendly fabrics.
- Homemade blankets and quilts. Hand sewn items such as teddy bears, gingerbread men, or other creative characters that support long term patient care. For advanced sewing projects please contact Volunteer Services for more information.
- Knitting supplies: cotton yarn - not bulky (any brand and color), size 7 circular knitting needles (small loops preferred, but not necessary), size I/9 crochet hooks

Delivery Directions

Visiting policies: Onsite group projects are available upon application. Please contact volunteergroups@texaschildren.org for more information on group visits with members **over the age of 18**.

For Deliveries to Texas Children's Medical Center: 6621 Fannin Street Abercrombie Building Room A125 Entrance #11 off Fannin (Second Entrance North of Holcombe)	For Mailing Purposes: Texas Children's Hospital ATTN: Volunteer Services 6621 Fannin Street, A1125 Houston, TX 77030
Donation Office Hours:	Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 6:00 pm Saturdays and Sundays 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

If you have questions, please call 832-824-2257. Advance notification of deliveries is appreciated but not required.

***The patients and families of Texas Children's Hospital
Thank you for your generosity and thoughtfulness in remembering them.***





Craft Kits

Each kit should contain one easy to make project that includes directions and all supplies needed to complete this item. All materials, glue etc. should be non-toxic and child safe.

Hats



Hats need to be at least the size of a medium hand sized fist. Fleece material is best. Knitted hats should be tightly knitted stitches.



Telemetry Device



Holder

Telemetry transmitters are used for cardiovascular patients who need continuous monitoring of the heart. Patients range in age so please keep in mind when creating custom backpacks and pocketed aprons. Fabric material is best.

Blankets and Quilts



Blankets comfort all patients of any age. Infant flannel blankets should measure 30" x 30". Fleece and quilted blankets can measure from 36" x 36" up to 72" x 90". Material should be pre-washed. Knitted or crocheted items should have small, tight stitches. Please do not sew on buttons, beads, or other items.

Pillowcases



Given to patients- use cheerful patterned pre-washed fabric or fleece the size of a standard pillowcase.

Yarn Balls



Yarn balls are just the right size and soft for kids who might be inclined to throw them. Also used for rehab therapy and to release frustration. Bright colors of yarn are enjoyed by toddlers.

Pillows



Fun shaped handmade pillows can bring joy and comfort to patients. Pillows vary in size but should not exceed 7"X10" in dimension.

Finger Puppets



These playful items are used after blood draw finger pokes. Use felt or cloth. Do not attach buttons, etc.



Frequently Asked Questions Gift Donations

I want to donate toys or other items to Texas Children's. What is the proper process?

We really appreciate you thinking of Texas Children's Hospital! Please contact Volunteer Services at (832) 824-2257 or via email at volunteerservices@texaschildrenshospital.org to discuss your donation and make arrangements to drop off your gift.

Are there specific items that you need more than others?

Items are needed throughout the year for children ranging in ages from infancy to age 18. However, infant and adolescent items are most needed.

Can I personally deliver my donation to patients or visit with patients?

Due to infection control guidelines, we do not allow personal delivery of gifts and donations directly to patients. We make every effort to maximize the donations we receive from our community and ensure donations are properly delivered however, there are a select number of onsite group opportunities available. Please contact volunteergroups@texaschildrens.org for more information.

Can I designate my donation to a specific area of the hospital?

Yes. If there is a specific area of the hospital you would like to support, please let us know so that we can make the proper arrangements for your gift.

What is the Gift In-Kind form? Why do I need to complete one?

When you are ready to make your donation, we will ask you to complete an in-kind form which includes the estimated or actual value of the donation. We request that you complete this form so that we can properly thank you and provide you with a receipt for tax purposes.

Can I use Texas Children's Hospital logo to promote my fundraising efforts?

Please contact us at (832) 824-2257 or via email at volunteerservices@texaschildrenshospital.org for more information.

How do I drop off items?

Please contact Volunteer Services at (832) 824-2257 to arrange a donation drop off date and time Monday - Friday between 8:00 am - 4:00pm and Saturday - Sunday between 9:00 am - 4:00pm.

What if my donation is very large?

Please contact Volunteer Services at least one week in advance to make arrangements for your donation delivery.