Toy and Gift Safety Guidelines

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

1. For the safety and welfare of our patients, we cannot accept any used items or any new/used stuffed toys.
2. Items should be age-appropriate. The majority of our patients range in age from infants to young adults. We cannot accept DVDs that are rated R or PG-13.
3. Please avoid toys that break easily, have sharp edges or have many small parts that can be removed, swallowed or inhaled. We cannot accept toys that are electrical, spark-producing or friction-producing.
4. All items must be non-toxic.
5. Cincinnati Children's is a latex-free environment. No latex balloons, balloon animals or other latex toys are permitted in the medical center.
6. Sports/trading cards are only accepted if unopened and in the original packaging.
7. Stuffed toys/items, including Beanie Babies, cannot be accepted.
8. Most handmade items, including greeting cards and fleece blankets, cannot be accepted. All handmade items must be approved before they may be accepted. Please contact Jane Livingston at 513-636-5686 to request approval.
9. Due to varying dietary restrictions, food and candy cannot be given to patients.
10. Toys with violent themes, including guns, swords and other weapons, cannot be accepted.
11. Donated gifts should not be wrapped. We do, however, accept gifts of wrapping paper and ribbon.
12. We can only accept toys that are neutral religiously and politically.
12. We are unable to accept stickers.

If you have any questions about the items we are able to accept, please contact Jane Livingston at jane.livingston@cchmc.org or 513-636-5686.

Frequently Asked Questions for Gift Donations

I want to donate toys or other items to Cincinnati Children's. What is the proper process?
Thank you for thinking of Cincinnati Children's! You can contact Jane Livingston at jane.livingston@cchmc.org or 513-636-5686 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 from infancy through age 18. Please see our wish list for additional information.

Can I personally deliver my donation to patients or visit with patients?
Due to privacy regulations and health concerns of our patients, a staff member will need to accept your donation on behalf of the medical center. We will ensure it is properly delivered.

Can I designate my donation to a specific area of the medical center?
Yes. If there is a specific area of the medical center 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 donation form? Why do I need to fill it out?
When you are ready to make your gift, please fill out this form, including the estimated or actual value of the donation and bring it with your donation. We request that you complete this form so we can properly thank you and provide you with a receipt for tax purposes.

Can I use the Cincinnati Children's logo to promote my fundraising efforts?
Unfortunately, we cannot provide you with the Cincinnati Children's logo. Event materials should state that "Proceeds benefit Cincinnati Children's."

How do I drop off my items?
Please contact Jane Livingston to arrange a meeting date/time at the medical center Monday – Friday from 9:30 am – 4:30 pm. Once you have set up your appointment, you will receive directions and a confirmation of your meeting time.

If you are unable to meet and would like to drop off your items, you may do so at the Location B Welcome Desk at the main entrance to the hospital.

Directions to the Location B Welcome Desk: Enter the main driveway at 3333 Burnet Avenue and continue toward the circular driveway. Park in any available space and enter the medical center through Location B. The Welcome Desk is located right inside these doors.

What if my donation is very large?
Please contact Jane Livingston at least one week in advance to make arrangements for your donation delivery. Space at the Location B Welcome Desk is limited so we ask that you do not drop off large donations in this area.

What can I expect when I drop off my gifts?
If you have made arrangements to drop off your gift and meet a Cincinnati Children's staff member, we will meet you at the medical center. We can help you unload your gifts, if necessary, and then talk with you about how they help the children and families we serve. If you'd like, we will take a photo of you with your gift to include in our Facebook thank you album. If you have any questions about the medical center, we will be happy to answer those as well.