



**EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING: A COPING AND DISTRACTION TECHNIQUE IN  
PEDIATRIC HOSPITAL SETTINGS**

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**ABSTRACT**

The experience of hospitalization is a unique and typically difficult experience for most children. Many children's hospitals strive to provide different services to help children cope with the difficult emotions and distract them from the pain they may be feeling. In connection with Child Life services, common services such as Music Therapy, Art Therapy, and Pet Therapy provide an outlet for children to play and think about something other than the hospital. School services are also an important aspect of providing a "normal" daily experience for children in the hospital. This research serves as a reminder for hospital administrators and medical personnel of the importance of child life interventions for pediatric patients. Also it serves as a suggestion for further usage of educational activities and programming for children who thrive off of learning and education. Educational activities can provide similar distraction as other services offered in the hospital. Included are current practices and services being used in pediatric hospitals. Some examples of these include: interactive broadcasted television programs, virtual reality goggle expeditions, and educational tablet games.