

What is Child Life?

By: Steve Slowinski, former Child Life Intern
at Connecticut Children's Medical Center

What I'm not:

A nurse.

A doctor.

A social worker.

A "Keeper of the Toys."

A magical "make-this-kid-not-cry"
person.

Only someone to play with the kids.

I'm not superfluous.

A distraction provider,

An inpatient support,

And a guide and voice for siblings

All in the same day.

I am calm despite cancer, CAT scans,
and catheters.

I am strong in the face of syncope,
sickle cell, and surgery.

Kids can't always do these things for
themselves.

That's why I'm here.

I am deliberate in all of my actions and
words

Because I use the language of children

And it has power.

I am flexible and go where I'm needed

Because children can't always be
flexible

About when they're going to freak.

I am not here to merely play with

children, give them toys, and distract
them

With "SpongeBob".

I'm a Child Life Specialist.

When kids say they can't, I tell them
they can.

What I am:

I am a teacher,

A helping hand,

A support,

An advocate,

An active listener,

A therapeutic touch,

And a child development specialist

Every.

Single.

Day.

I am an OR prep-er,

An IV teacher,

A de-coder of PICC, VCUQ, MRI and

NG,