



Hospital Play Specialists Association of Aotearoa/New Zealand Inc.

Standards for the Provision of Hospital Early Childhood Education, Play and Recreation Services

Acknowledgements to the Child Life Council, USA, for permission to adapt their documents

Note: An accompanying audit tool is under development.

- 1. Strategic plan for hospital play and recreation services**
Standard: Every healthcare institution which includes children and young people as all or part of its service obligation shall have a strategic plan for providing a comprehensive¹ play and recreation service, developed in conjunction with a hospital play specialist who has demonstrated ability in programme management and development.
- 2. Administration**
Standard: Hospital play and recreation services shall be provided under the direction of a hospital play specialist with demonstrated administrative and supervisory ability who shall be accountable for play and recreation services within the institution.
- 3. Treaty of Waitangi**
Standard: The service shall honour its obligations to Maori arising from the Treaty of Waitangi.
- 4. Culturally safe practice**
Standard: The service shall be provided in a manner that maintains cultural safety for all children, young people, families, whanau and staff.
- 5. Scope of service**
Standard: The hospital play and recreation service shall include direct services to children, young people and families; consultation; teaching; quality assurance; policy and programme planning; advocacy; environmental planning; and research.
- 6. Approach to care**
Standard: All hospital play specialists shall participate:
 - As partners with parents, families and whanau in planning and implementing programmes provided for children and young people; and
 - In an interdisciplinary approach to the care of children, young people and families.
- 7. Staffing**
Standard: Qualified hospital play specialists shall be available to plan, evaluate and safely provide comprehensive hospital play and recreation services for children, young people and families throughout the institution.
- 8. Professional qualifications and development**
Standard: Hospital play specialists shall be qualified and shall be supported with training, supervision, and regular performance appraisal.
- 9. Policies and procedures**
Standard: Hospital play and recreation services shall be guided by written policies and procedures based on the Hospital Play Specialists Assn of Aotearoa/NZ documents, Ministry of Education requirements for early childhood education services, and all relevant requirements of the healthcare institution.
- 10. Documentation**
Standard: Hospital play specialist services shall be documented in patient care records and in service statistics.
- 11. Quality assurance**
Standard: The quality of hospital play and recreation services provided shall be regularly reviewed, evaluated and assured.
- 12. Funding and Facilities**
Standard: There shall be designated budget, playroom space, facilities, resources and equipment which are adequate to fulfil the needs of the clinical, educational and administrative aspects of the play and recreation service.

¹ A comprehensive play and recreation programme is defined as one which strives to minimise stress; promote optimum development of children, young people and their families; maintain normal living patterns; and enhance coping.