They work in the healthcare setting with infants, toddlers, school aged children and teens to address various stressful and traumatic events that can affect their ability to cope. These healthcare events could lead to many feelings such as: fear, anxiety, confusion and loss of control as well as isolation that could hinder their normal development and have adverse effects on emotional and physical health.

The Child Life Specialist is Masters educated and deeply understands the developmental impact that illness as well as injury, can have on children.

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In the hospital setting, Child Life Specialists help children and families cope with stress and uncertainty of illness, injury, loss and bereavement. They provide appropriate interventions such as play, preparation, and education to reduce any anxiety, pain and fear. The Child Life Specialist provides interventions to support grieving children and families including providing resources, assisting adults on how to communicate with children after a loss, and being present with children to help them understand.