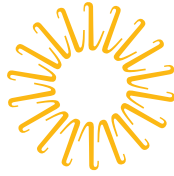


Bradley Hospital

Lifespan. Delivering health with care.®

Children's Program
Handbook



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Welcome to Bradley Hospital's Children's Inpatient Program. We realize that admitting your child to the hospital is a difficult and stressful time for your family. It is our earnest wish that despite the current difficulty your child might be facing, we can help you and your family get things back on track and feel a renewed sense of hope for your child's future.

We have prepared this handbook to help you become familiar with the program, the staff, and the services we provide. We want you to better understand what you can expect from your child's treatment here. We also want to invite you, as the person who knows your child best, to actively work with our team in helping your child.

You are our partner in your child's treatment and we look to you for suggestions and feedback on how we can do better. We want your help in improving the experience that you and your child have with us. Please do not hesitate to call us with your questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

The Children's Inpatient Program Team



Philosophy of Care

Teamwork: We work as a team with you and your child. We understand that parents and caregivers know their children best, and therefore we greatly value your input on your child's presentation and how best to work with them.

Understanding the whole child: We look at all areas of your child's development (physical, emotional and social). We work together as a team of professionals from many disciplines to form a well-rounded plan for treatment and aftercare.

Least restrictive care: We actively work to help children be successful in less restrictive environments and to transition safely back to the community.

Problem-solving and collaboration: We teach children tools to help them resolve conflict in healthier ways and to help them make safer choices.

Support of diversity: We understand that families come in many forms and from diverse backgrounds. We respect differences in childrearing beliefs, view diversity as an important part of treatment and view your child's culture as an important part of their treatment.

Our Program

We see hospitalization as a stepping-stone that helps children remain safe while learning the skills that will help them move on. Since children coming to our program are experiencing significant stressors or are having difficulty with unsafe behaviors and impulsivity, we closely monitor all children and put individualized safeguards in place when needed. The length of your child's stay will depend upon the circumstances of the admission and response to treatment.

Our environment is called a "milieu." Our milieu is designed to be therapeutic 24 hours per day. We have daily group therapies as well as therapeutic activities for all patients on the unit. They are geared to encourage emotional growth. Please do not hesitate to call or ask questions about our program. If questions arise during your visit, please let a staff member know. We are here to help you and your family.

The Treatment Team

Your child will be treated by a team of professionals, including a child psychiatrist, a clinical social worker, a psychologist, registered nurses (RN), and behavioral health specialists. We also have a pediatrician and a pediatric RN practitioner who may be consulted for medical issues during the hospitalization. Bradley Hospital is a teaching hospital affiliated with The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. In addition, your child may work with trainees from other disciplines who are closely supervised by licensed supervisors.

The Assessment

Your child will undergo a comprehensive psychiatric, psychosocial, and psychological assessment that includes a diagnostic evaluation. Included in this assessment are the comprehensive psychiatric evaluation, the social worker family assessment, nursing assessments, psychological screening questionnaires, and observations and behavior ratings from the milieu and from group therapies. It is important to remember that all members of the team are observing your child's current functioning and are documenting progress. Team members routinely share information with one another. All of these observations are taken into account when determining the treatment plan. The team assessment is then summarized in a written document called the After-visit summary.

Safety

Our staff has been trained to assist children in coping with emotional crises and social conflicts without the use of physical restraint, mechanical restraint or locked seclusion. For example, children develop a personal safety plan while on the unit that provides strategies and tools for resolving conflict or controlling anger. However, there may be times when staff must use more restrictive techniques to prevent harm to the child or to others. When this happens, we follow training protocols and hospital policies that are consistent with national guidelines regarding seclusion and restraint with children. A nurse will assess the health and emotional well-being of children during restraint or seclusion. We document, monitor and review the use of these techniques and actively work with children to develop alternatives to seclusion and restraint. Please let us know how you would like to be informed, should your child's behavior require the use of restraint or seclusion.

We want your child to feel comfortable on the unit. To ensure the safety of all children on the unit, we have established some expectations regarding potential safety issues. We do not allow children to have physical contact with each other. Clothing with drug or alcohol content, violent themes, hats, and revealing clothing are restricted to ensure a therapeutic environment for everyone. Items with potential for danger such as lighters, razors, nail clippers, nail files, cigarettes, curling irons, glass objects, mirrors, balloons, spiral notebooks, plastic bags and electronic devices with cords are also not permitted. We suggest that children on the unit refrain from borrowing or lending personal items. Most other items are permitted (e.g., pictures, stuffed animal, books). We suggest that parents take home any items of value because they may break or get lost or stolen.



Children's Program Phone Directory

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