



Donation Guidelines

On behalf of McMaster Children's Hospital, we thank you for thinking of our patients and families. For Infection Control and safety reasons, we have guidelines around what we are able to accept into the hospital. To maintain the safety of our patients, we will only accept brand new items that are non-toxic, purchased within the past two months, and from smoke-free homes. Unfortunately, we are unable to accept used or gently used items.

Items that are dropped off to the hospital and do not meet our Donation Guidelines will be donated to outside community agencies. While we appreciate your generosity, to protect the privacy of our patients, you are unable to hand out your donation to patients.

Activities and Toys

We are only able to accept items that have been purchased within the last two months. This is to ensure they have not been exposed to germs, dust, pets, or bacteria. For a list of popular items, please look at our ***Patient Wish List***.

Candy and Food

We will happily accept candy and treats leading up to holidays, especially for our annual Halloween parade, keeping in mind a few guidelines. For the safety of our patients we ask that all food items donated are wrapped or packaged by the original manufacturer. We are unable to accept hard candies, lollipops, items with peanuts, or anything with latex.

Food products donated that are not within our guidelines or have been donated at non-holiday times of the year may be donated to the Ronald McDonald Family Room, on the 3rd floor of our hospital.

Clothing

We can accept brand new comfortable t-shirts, pants, long-sleeve shirts, socks, underwear and pajamas (infant to adult XL) for our "Clothing Closet" program. This program allows us to offer clean clothes to patients who may have arrived in damaged or dirty clothing, or to those who do not have access to clean clothing during their hospital stay. Gently used items can be accepted on a case-by-case basis but generally must be pre-washed, from smoke-free homes and in excellent condition.

Electronics

The type of gaming systems, televisions and electronics provided to our patients in their rooms and in the teen lounge varies. For this reason, we ask that you contact the Child Life department at 905.521.2100 ext. 76129 for an updated list of acceptable items. Our ***Patient Wish List*** also outlines needed video games and movies.

Gift Cards

Gift cards are so helpful for birthday gifts, end of treatment celebrations, and incentives, especially for our teen patients. Please see our ***Patient Wish List*** for a list of preferred gift cards.



Homemade Toys, Crafts, and Craft Kits

For Infection Control reasons, we are unable to accept handmade items. All items in bagged “kits” must be brand new in individually wrapped, original packaging. If you have any questions about this please call our Child Life department at 905.521.2100 ext. 76129.

Knitted and Sewn Items

We are unable to accept knit or sewn items, except for the items below.

Pillowcases. We offer patients fun, colourful pillowcases to help make our patients' hospital room feel more like home. Donated pillowcases must be standard size (20" x 26") and made with brand new, clean fabric in bright colours or popular/current children's patterns. All pillowcases must be washed after sewn and then bagged separately to ensure they are clean.

Blankets. Our Neonatal and Labour/Delivery units are in need of receiving blankets measuring 16" x 24" or 14" x 20". Blankets can be knit or sewn with yarn or fabric that is brand new, clean, and soft and made with bright colours or popular/current children's patterns. If your item is knitted, please knit tightly to prevent little fingers from becoming caught.

Hats. **At this time we are not accepting hats. Please consider donating to your closest community organization.**

Boxes. Our Neonatal and Labour/Delivery units are in need of memory boxes to hold small mementos to give to parents of infants. They are looking for hand painted boxes measuring 8" x 4" or 7" x 3", with a lid. Designs can be floral or include butterflies; please no religious content.

Please ensure all handmade items do not have any pins or detachable decorations.

Monetary Gifts

Monetary gifts are gratefully accepted. Please visit **McMaster Children's Hospital Foundation** to find out how to give. If you would like to fund the purchase of distraction items, and programming and event supplies for our patients, please specify the “Child Life Fund”.

Stuffed Animals

We are only able to accept stuffed animals that have manufacturer or store tags. This way we can guarantee they are brand new and recently purchased. For storage purchases, we are unable to accept stuffed animals larger than 20”.

For any questions about our Donation Guidelines, needs, or drop-off instructions, please call the Child Life department at 905.521.2100 ext. 76129. Thank you for supporting our patients and families at McMaster Children's Hospital!