

Feature Article – Time to Play Campaign  
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Published in BJC Today – April 3, 2006

## **CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL PLANS SIBLING PLAYROOM**

Campaign launches April 7

St. Louis Children’s Hospital (SLCH) will kick off its “Time to Play” campaign April 7. This effort is the employee portion of the \$125 million “Building for Care, Searching for Cures” campaign to launch the Children’s Discovery Institute and expand SLCH’s facilities to accommodate this vision. Funds from the Time to Play campaign will support building, equipping and staffing a supervised sibling playroom in the hospital.

Dwayne Ingram, patient advocacy coordinator, and Johanna Schloemann, RNC, NNP, APRN, BC, PNP, are the Time to Play co-chairs. “We’re excited about this campaign,” Ingram says. “I think employees will get behind this effort because a sibling playroom will fulfill such an important need.”

Says Schloemann, “Many parents don’t have the resources to provide care for their other children while they’re at the hospital with their sick child. This is our chance to deliver even more family-centered care – looking after the needs of our patients’ whole family.”

The sibling playroom is expected to offer many benefits to patient families. It will offer parents longer, more focused visits with their sick child. Siblings will be able to play in a supervised, child-friendly environment, reducing their risk of injury and the spread of infection.

“Having a fun place for siblings to play is a relief for parents who often are pulled in many directions,” says Rachel Miller, RN, 7 West progressive care unit. “It will assure them that, while they attend to their sick child, their other kids are in a safe, caring place.”

The cost to build and equip a supervised sibling playroom within the hospital, probably on the lower level, is about \$500,000. In addition, substantial funds will be needed to establish the St. Louis Children’s Hospital Employees’ Endowment Fund to provide qualified playroom staffing and ongoing maintenance for years to come.

Plans call for the sibling playroom to be open several hours per day to care for patients’ siblings between the ages of 2 and 10. Fewer than 15 other children’s hospitals in the country offer supervised play areas for their patients’ siblings.

“St. Louis Children’s Hospital is investing \$75 million to expand and renovate the hospital, but we were unable to include the sibling playroom in the overall project,” says Lee Fetter, SLCH president. “Our employees are going above and beyond to fund the construction of this playroom. Their dedication to providing family-centered care shows not only in the daily care

they provide, but also in the investment they're making in this additional enhancement to the hospital."

The Time to Play campaign will run through June 30. To receive a pledge card, contact Sherry Smith, SLCH Foundation, 314-286-1553 or [sls3440@bjc.org](mailto:sls3440@bjc.org). For more information about Time to Play, visit [careandcures.org](http://careandcures.org) and click "Employee Campaign."

