

Child Life Programs

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Ann Hannan, and I am the music therapist at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis, Indiana. In September, I had the pleasure of having Thaddeus Rex (T Rex) participate in a Music Therapy Week Party for our patients and families.

T Rex provided our patients and families with a highly interactive and educational program that was presented through the vehicles of music and comedy. His energy level is contagious, and as I watched the program progress, I saw our children sit up taller and follow his every movement. His quick paced and multimedia presentation style captured the attention of children and adults alike as anticipation of his next antic mounted with every passing moment. T Rex used brightly colored clothing and intriguing props and instruments to enhance the interaction and make his stories come alive. The children laughed with him, smiled at him, and moved to the music he shared with them.

In my own work, I use music and humor to establish relationships with the patients and families here at the hospital. Humor breaks the ice, and music creates an opportunity for interaction. Our young patients find themselves in an unfamiliar environment where they have little control. Special interactions like the one provided by T Rex give our children an opportunity to shed the label of "child with an illness" and be just a child, even if it is just for an hour or two. This type of interaction also gives the child a chance to make choices and socialize with other patients. T Rex assisted us in fulfilling the mission of our child life department; to normalize the hospital environment for our patients and families.

In addition to T Rex's superb interaction with the patients, he presents himself in a very professional and compassionate manner. He has demonstrated flexibility, punctuality, and dependability. He has kept in contact and has inquired about the success of the programs here at the hospital. He has shown genuine care and compassion for the children at this hospital.

Without reservation, I recommend to you any program presented by Thaddeus Rex. His refreshing and energizing combination of humor and music will benefit children of all ages by giving them an opportunity to be "just a child" once again. Thank you for your time, and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached through email at AHannan@Clarian.org or at the address and telephone number listed below.

Sincerely,



Ann M. Hannan, MT-BC
Board Certified Music Therapist
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