



Children's
of Alabama®



1600 7th Avenue South | Birmingham, Alabama 35233 | www.ChildrensAL.org

FAMILY CENTERED CARE

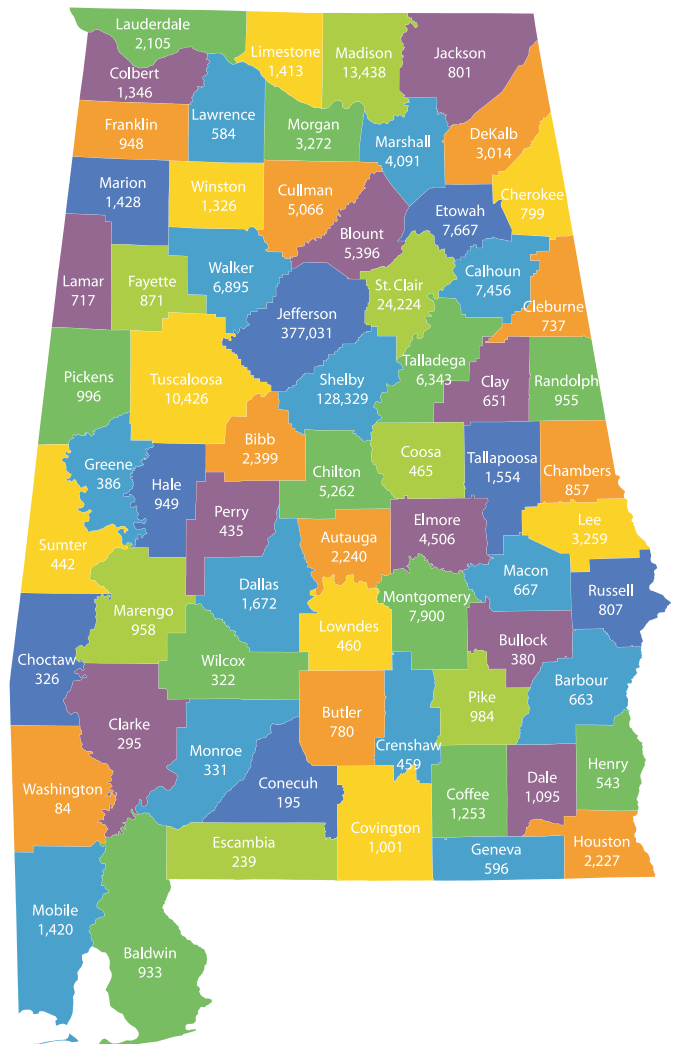
At Children's of Alabama, we believe in the central role families play in the lives of their children, including decisions about their health. This philosophy is called family-centered care, and you can see it in our interactions with our patients and their families, in the design of our physical spaces and in the support services that make Children's a special place.

CHILDREN'S OF ALABAMA IS...

- the only free-standing pediatric hospital in Alabama
- one of the Top 20 employers in Alabama with more than 4,400 employees across the state
- the pediatric teaching hospital for the School of Medicine at UAB
- home to the only pediatric kidney dialysis program in the state — one of the largest in the country
- home to one of the largest burn units in the Southeast

DID YOU KNOW?

- In an average year Children's has more than 650,000 patient visits to our clinics and nearly 14,000 patient admissions
- Children's treats more than 90 percent of all children in Alabama who have been diagnosed with cancer
- Children's is home to one of the largest pediatric rheumatology clinics in the nation and the only one in Alabama.
- Children's of Alabama treats all children regardless of their family's ability to pay



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CHILD LIFE

The Child Life program at Children's of Alabama recognizes that illness and hospitalization are stressful events in the lives of children and their families. By using age appropriate education, preparation and supportive activities, Child Life Specialists strive to minimize that stress and help children and their families cope positively with their healthcare experience. Child Life Specialists are professionally trained in understanding and meeting the unique needs of children and teens in the healthcare environment and as part of the medical team, provide the following services:

- Preparing children, teens and families for hospitalization, procedures, and surgeries in ways they can understand.
- Providing sibling support, including education regarding patient's diagnosis, treatment, and the hospital environment.
- Providing opportunities for medical play, helping children better understand the health care experience
- Coordinating entertainment, donations, holiday activities, and special events to encourage normal development and a sense of fun in spite of challenging circumstances.

PASTORAL CARE

A child's health involves more than medicine alone. When a loved one is sick, there are often special needs for spiritual care. This is true whether or not a family considers themselves religious or are members of an organized community of faith. At Children's of Alabama, chaplains are available 24 hours a day to assess and respond to the spiritual distress of children and their families.

The chaplains at Children's may provide assistance when a patient or caregiver:

- is struggling to make sense out of what is happening
- requests prayer or a religious ritual like anointing, baptism, or communion
- learns of a new diagnosis or there is a significant change in care
- feels isolated or lonely
- is facing an ethical dilemma or decision
- becomes aware that surgery is needed or imminent
- is grieving a loss or death

SOCIAL SERVICES

The primary role of social work services at Children's of Alabama is to meet the complex social and emotional needs of our patients and our patients' families. Social workers are a part of many of the multi-disciplinary care teams that you will see throughout the health system. All children who receive services at Children's of Alabama are eligible for social work services—including both in-patients and out-patients.

The primary social work services include but are not limited to the following:

- Psychosocial assessment and intervention
- Crisis intervention
- Discharge planning
- Supportive counseling
- Child abuse reporting and follow-up
- Lodging, transportation, financial and medication assistance
- Resource identification and referral

SUNSHINE SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Junior League of Birmingham Sunshine School at Children's of Alabama is a special program designed to serve the unique educational needs of children with medical or behavioral health issues. The school is staffed with state of Alabama certified teachers with over 100 years of teaching experience combined.

In addition to facilitating instruction, the Sunshine School teachers:

- Facilitate the exchange of information, ideas, and needs among families, hospital personnel, and school personnel in addition to facilitating instruction
- Educate all involved concerning the patient's unique needs and requirements while hospitalized, at home, and/or attending school
- Advocate for the patient and his/her needs while hospitalized and upon return to the school setting
- Communicate clearly all information necessary to enhance the patient's educational experience while developing and maintaining academic skills while hospitalized