

Pediatric Director's Forum ListServ Inquiry:
Policy Guidelines for the management of siblings in the therapy setting

The following is a summary of responses:

- One facility, Org "A", has an observation guideline that was shared. See attached.
- Another facility had a guideline that states that equipment is for patients only. They request that siblings stay home, but if they must attend therapy they can be in the therapy area as long as they are not climbing onto the therapy equipment. There is a care agreement parents sign with this information.
- The following were common themes, but no written guidelines:
 - It may be better/safer for the parents to wait in waiting room in cases where parents are not managing siblings well – despite instruction.
 - Prefer siblings do not come back just due to space constraints (safety), and the fact that it detracts from the clinicians attention on the patient.
 - Have a hospital-sponsored "play room" for sibs & certainly suggest this to families that need to bring siblings
 - Signage posted that siblings / family members are not permitted on equipment or in therapy space.