

Katelyn Shellabarger

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Katelyn A. Shellabarger, B.A., CCLS, is a Certified Child Life Specialist at Dayton Children's Hospital. Katelyn completed her child life work at Ball State University and her child life internship at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Her clinical interests include perioperative child life, caring for the sensory needs of neurodiverse patients, trauma informed care, and child life clinical education. Katelyn has been a child life specialist in the perioperative services department since 2015 where she, in collaboration with physicians and nurses, worked to establish individualized coping plans for patients as well as adaptive sensory environments in the perioperative area. This program was recognized in Parent's Magazine in 2021 as "Top 15 Children's Hospitals in Innovation and Technology—Dayton Children's Hospital: A Sensory Friendly Surgery Experience." Katelyn has also worked to establish the child life clinical internship program at Dayton Children's. She serves as co-chair of the national Association of Child Life Professional's Education and Training Committee.