



HOSPITALS • RESEARCH • FOUNDATION

Dear Child Life Practicum Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in our practicum program. This packet includes information about our hospital, Child Life and Education Department, practicum program, and our practicum application.

We offer a practicum in summer only. The practicum is a full time, three-week, 120-hour program. Child life practicum students may be assigned rotations that may include evenings, weekends, and holidays. Practicum students **must be affiliated with a college or university**. *Please note, we are currently unable to accept non-affiliated students.*

The practicum curriculum incorporates child life programming and addresses challenges and strategies related to current healthcare issues. Benefits to students may include the following: opportunities to observe hospitalized children and adolescents, increased comfort with the hospital environment, increased practical knowledge of child life, and in-service training.

Please return completed application by:

Practicum Start Dates	Application Deadline
June and July	January 5th

Qualified applicants will be contacted and interviewed. Selected candidates will receive more detailed information upon acceptance into the practicum program.

Thank you for your interest in our program.

Sincerely,

Elena Glover, MS, CCLS  
Supervisor Child Life  
Child Life Practicum Coordinator  
[Gloverec@archildrens.org](mailto:Gloverec@archildrens.org)

# **Arkansas Children's Hospital Child Life and Education Department Practicum Information Packet**

## **Arkansas Children's Hospital Mission Statement**

We champion children by making them better today and healthier tomorrow.

## **Hospital Overview**

Arkansas Children's Hospital (ACH) is a pediatric hospital with a Level I Trauma Center located in Little Rock, Arkansas. It is among the largest pediatric hospitals in the United States and serves children from birth to age 21. ACH is affiliated with the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) and is a teaching hospital with the UAMS College of Medicine's Department of Pediatrics. ACH consists of more than 500 physicians, over 200 residents, and employs more than 4,400 support staff. The hospital has 336 beds and three intensive care units. The campus spans 36 city blocks and has a floor space of over 2,000,000 square feet.

## **Child Life and Education Mission Statement**

The Child Life and Education Department mission is to advocate for and assist in meeting the psychosocial needs of patients and families. The Child Life and Education staff enhance the psychological and emotional well-being of patients and families through developmental and therapeutic activities, education, and preparation for medical events in both outpatient and inpatient areas.

## **Child Life and Education Overview**

The Child Life and Education Department was established in 1981 and currently has eight playrooms, three teen activity rooms, and one hospital school classroom. There are 16 child life specialists, three teachers, three patient activity specialists, two artists-in-residence, two music therapists, an administrative assistant, manager, and director.

## Practicum Overview

The Child Life and Education Department at ACH offers a three-week child life practicum. Practicum students must be a sophomore in college or beyond. Students must complete 40 hours per week. This program is designed to meet the individual learning needs and goals of its practicum students. The child life practicum student will:

- Become familiar with the child life profession
- Develop communication skills with children, families, and healthcare professionals in the healthcare setting
- Recognize and understand children's and adolescents' reactions to stress, illness, and pain
- Recognize the value of play and psychosocially supportive interventions
- Learn to plan and facilitate a variety of activities for individual and groups of children of diverse ages and capabilities and practice these skills in activity rooms and at bedside
- Gain knowledge of medical terminology, diagnoses, and procedures
- Set goals for learning and evaluate own performance
- Begin to develop professional attitudes, growth, maturity, and judgment by functioning as a member of the healthcare team

## Rotations

There will be three clinical rotations under the guidance and supervision of a certified child life specialist. Child life practicum students may be assigned rotations that include evenings, weekends, and holidays. Practicum students will complete three, one-week rotations. During the three rotations, the student will be assigned to a specific area and supervised by a child life specialist. Each week the student coordinator will meet with the student and provide additional educational discussions.

## Deadlines

Child Life Practicums are only offered in the summer and begin in June.

Practicum Start Dates	Application Deadline	Applicant Notification
June and July	January 5th	2nd Thursday in February

## Qualifications

### *Interpersonal Skills*

Applicants must have well-developed communication skills and be able to build a positive, trusting relationship with both children and adults. It is essential that applicants be flexible and adaptable.

## *Academic*

1. Applicants must be currently affiliated with an accredited college or university.
2. Applicants must be at least in their sophomore year.
3. Applicant's curriculum should reflect courses that lead to an understanding of growth and development across the lifespan and family theories.

## *Experience*

1. Applicants must have completed a minimum of 50 hours working with children in a structured environment (child development center, daycare setting, preschool, camp, etc.). Volunteer experience working with hospitalized children is strongly recommended.

## *Application Process*

The application packet **must** include the following:

- Completed practicum application
- Resume and cover letter
- Transcript (can be unofficial)

## *Requirements*

Once accepted, all practicum students will be required to complete the following:

- TB test
- Proof of vaccinations
- Drug and tobacco test
- Background check
- Student Orientation Checklist
- Additional forms required by the Human Resources Department

**Completed application and packet should be mailed to the address below:**

Practicum Coordinator  
Child Life and Education Department – Slot 804  
1 Children's Way  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72202

For questions about the practicum program please contact our practicum coordinator:  
Elena Glover [gloverec@archildrens.org](mailto:gloverec@archildrens.org)

**Arkansas Children's Hospital  
Child Life and Education Department  
Practicum Application**

**Application answers must be typed.**

**Personal Information**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Permanent Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact Information**

**Emergency Contact Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Relationship:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Academic Information**

**College/University:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Major/Minor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Year in school:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Academic Advisor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Advisor Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Advisor Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Volunteer/Work Experiences**

**Number of hours working with well children:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of hours working with children with special needs:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of hours working with hospitalized children:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Essays**

**Please respond to the following questions. Limit each response to 200 words. All answers must be typed.**

**1. Explain your understanding of the role of a child life specialist in the healthcare setting.**

**2. Explain how you have increased your knowledge or awareness of the child life profession.**

**3. What do you hope to gain from your child life practicum? Please state three goals you have for your practicum experience.**

**4. Describe a time you used play to meet the developmental needs of a child or adolescent.**