



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 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,

Mandy Fenwick, CCLS, CIMT
Child Life Practicum Coordinator

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 505 physicians, 200 residents, and 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, two patient activity specialists, two artists-in-residence, one music therapist, 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 several clinical rotations under the guidance and supervision of a patient activity specialist and child life specialists. Child life practicum students may be assigned rotations that include evenings, weekends, and holidays. Practicum students will complete three, one-week rotations. The first rotation will be held in activity areas and supervised by a patient activity specialist. During the second and third 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.

Rotation Opportunities

The Child Life and Education department offers a variety of rotation opportunities, which are determined each practicum session and include opportunities in both inpatient and outpatient areas.

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

Experience working or volunteering with individuals and groups of children and adolescents is strongly preferred. Experience with hospitalized children and families is desirable.

Application Process

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

- Completed practicum application
- Unofficial college or university transcript
- Three letters of reference
- Resume

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

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:
Laura Phillips - phillipsle@archildren.org

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

Name:	
Current Address:	
Primary Phone:	
Other Phone:	
Email:	
Permanent Address: (leave blank if same as above)	

Emergency Contact:	
Contact Phone:	
Relationship:	

College/University:	
Major:	
Minor:	
Year in School:	
GPA:	
School Address:	
School Phone:	
Name of Academic Supervisor:	
Department:	

Are you a member of the Association of Child Life Professionals: Yes or No
(please circle)

Volunteer/Work Experiences

Well Children

Institution:		Number of Hours:	
Position:		Dates:	
Institution:		Number of Hours:	
Position:		Dates:	
Institution:		Number of Hours:	
Position:		Dates:	

Children with Special Needs

Institution:		Number of Hours:	
Position:		Dates:	
Institution:		Number of Hours:	
Position:		Dates:	
Institution:		Number of Hours:	
Position:		Dates:	

Hospitalized Children

Institution:		Number of Hours:	
Position:		Dates:	
Child Life Specialist/ Supervisor:			
Institution:		Number of Hours:	
Position:		Dates:	
Child Life Specialist/ Supervisor:			
Institution:		Number of Hours:	
Position:		Dates:	
Child Life Specialist/ Supervisor:			

3. What do you hope to gain from your child life practicum? Please state two to three goals.

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