

**THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF PHILADELPHIA
CHILD LIFE, EDUCATION, and CREATIVE ARTS THERAPY DEPARTMENT**

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in our Child Life Practicum Program. We offer entry-level training three times a year through the Child Life, Education, and Creative Arts Therapy Department.

This training aims to introduce individuals to the child life field, highlighting the various experiences children and adolescents face in healthcare settings. Under the supervision of a Certified Child Life Specialist (CCLS), students will participate in individual and group activities with children and families.

Practicum Requirements:

Practicum students must have completed core coursework, including child development, and demonstrated successful experience working with children. This training is highly recommended for students considering a career as a child life specialist. Students must complete 30 hours per week over six weeks (Clinical days: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Education day: Thursday). To ensure broad exposure to the field, we recommend completing your practicum and internship at two different locations.

Application Deadlines:

- January Training: September 15th
- May/June Training: January 15th
- September Training: May 15th

Please note: The application deadline is a postmark deadline. All materials must be postmarked by the session deadline to be considered. We do not accept hand-delivered applications. While submitting an application does not guarantee acceptance, we prioritize providing quality supervision and education to each student. As a result, only a limited number of students are accepted each semester.

For any questions, please contact the Child Life, Education, and Creative Arts Therapy Department at 267-426-2790.

Sincerely,
Staff and Student Development Expert
Child Life, Education & Creative Arts Therapy Department

PRACTICUM JOB DESCRIPTION

The practicum student will gain extensive exposure to the child life profession through observation and supervised participation. This experience prepares the student for more intensive, career-oriented training in child life or a related field.

Program Components:

- Observe inpatient and/or outpatient child life/therapeutic recreation services.
- Enhance understanding of child development and the effects of healthcare experiences on children.
- Learn the value of play and appropriate play activities in the healthcare setting.
- Facilitate group and individual diversional and therapeutic activities.
- Observe medical play, psychological preparation, and procedural support to better understand the role of a child life specialist.
- Develop an understanding of the multifaceted role of the child life/therapeutic recreation professional.

Practicum Objectives:

Through observation, collaboration with child life staff, active participation in child life programming, and ongoing supervision and feedback, the practicum student will:

- Become familiar with the child life profession.
- Recognize reactions to stress, illness, and pain in children (infancy through adolescence) and their family members.
- Develop communication skills with children and families in the healthcare setting.
- Understand the importance of establishing and maintaining therapeutic relationships.
- Recognize the value of play and psychosocial support interventions.
- Integrate developmental knowledge with practical application.
- Set goals for learning based on self-evaluation.
- Complete assigned tasks in a timely and professional manner.

Program Prerequisites:

- Completion of the *junior year* of a bachelor's degree.
- A minimum of four college-level courses in relevant fields (e.g., family studies, child/human development, education).
- At least 100 hours of practical experience with children (infants through adolescents). Examples include babysitting, early childhood education, or similar roles.
- A minimum of 40 volunteer hours in a pediatric healthcare environment or a setting with children who have chronic illnesses.

Student Expectations:

- If your academic program or supervisor has specific practicum requirements, they will be adjusted accordingly.
 - Minimum of four written goals for the practicum experience.
 - Daily reflective journal of your experiences.
 - Plan, implement, and evaluate therapeutic activity.
 - Become familiar with medical terminology and complete associated assignments.
 - Attend designated in-services and wrap-up sessions.
 - Complete required readings (we utilized the ACLP pre-internship modules).
 - Complete ACLP Pre-Internship Developmental Worksheets daily.
 - Use the child life needs assessment form.
 - Discuss chart note usage with each rotation supervisor.
 - Option to participate in mock interviews and resume reviews.
 - Complete self-evaluation and program experience evaluations.
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CHILD LIFE PRACTICUM STUDENT APPLICATION
(120-hour minimum, 150-hour maximum, over six weeks)

Today’s Date: _____
Preferred Training Semester: _____

Personal Information:

- Name: _____
 - Permanent Address: _____
-

Phone: _____

- Current Address: _____
-

Phone: _____

- E-mail Address: _____

- Contact Person (for message or emergency): _____
Relation to Applicant: _____
Contact Phone: _____
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College Education:

- Please indicate that you have completed your junior year of a bachelor's degree.
- Institution(s) and Major(s):
 - Institution: _____ Major: _____ Graduation Date: _____
 - Institution: _____ Major: _____ Graduation Date: _____
 - Institution: _____ Major: _____ Graduation Date: _____

If receiving academic credit (affiliated with a university during your practicum or taking it for credit):

- Supervisor/Advisor Name and Title: _____
 - Supervisor/Advisor Phone: _____
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CHOP Child Life Practicum Application Checklist

To be considered for placement, submit the following materials with the title: "Child Life Practicum Application for [Spring/Summer/Fall] Term" to the following email address (either in a zip file or as individual files):

- **Completed application form.**
- **200-word essays (maximum) answering each of the following questions:**
 1. Tell us about your journey to the field of Child Life.
 2. Describe the elements you feel contribute to the foundational practice of Child Life.
 3. What materials and activities would you choose for play with a typically developing three-year-old child? Describe how your choices support normative development.
- **List of a minimum of four professional development goals you hope to accomplish during your practicum at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.**
- **Academic transcripts** from all academic institutions attended (unofficial or student copy with individual course grades and GPA is acceptable).
- **Resume** listing the total number of hours completed for each relevant experience.
- **Description of academic requirements** (including hours required for experience) and the role of the university supervisor, if applicable.
- **Signed application checklist.**

By signing below, I confirm that I have reviewed and met the application requirements. I am submitting all necessary documentation to be considered for a Child Life practicum experience at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Signature: _____

Date: _____
