

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. Three times a year we offer entry-level training in the Child Life, Education and Creative Arts Therapy Department.

This training is intended to introduce individuals to the child life field, as well as the variety of experiences facing children and adolescents in a healthcare setting. A certified child life specialist (CCLS) will supervise the student as he or she participates in individual and group activities with children and families.

Practicum students must have completed core curriculum, including child development course work, and must have demonstrated successful experiences with children. This type of training is highly recommended for those students who are considering a career as a child life specialist. Practicum students must complete 30 hours per week for a period of 6 weeks (Clinical days are M, T, W, F and education day is Thursday). To ensure that you have a broad range of experiences that make you the most marketable job candidate, we recommend that you complete your practicum and internship and two different locations.

Application submission deadlines are as follows:

Training Dates Application Postmark Deadline

January September 15th

May/June January 15th

September May 15th

The application deadline is a postmarked deadline. All required materials must be postmarked by the application session deadline to be considered. We will not accept applications that are hand delivered. Application is not a guarantee of acceptance. Due to the expectation that we provide students with quality supervision and education during placement, a limited number of students are accepted per semester. Should you have any further questions please call 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 is widely exposed to the child life profession through observation and supervised participation. This (minimum 120 hours-150 maximum) experience is designed to prepare the student for a more intensive, career-oriented training experience in child life or a related field.

Program components

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

Practicum objectives Through observation, collaboration with various 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 from infancy through adolescence and family members
- Develop communication skills with children from infancy through adolescence and family members in the healthcare setting
- Understand the importance of establishing and maintaining therapeutic relationships with patients and families
- Recognize the value of play and psychosocially supportive interventions
- Identify ways to integrate theoretical developmental knowledge with practice
- Evaluate own performance and set goals for learning
- In a timely and professional manner complete designated assignments that are developed to aid in learning

Program Pre-requisites

- Completion of Junior year of bachelor's level degree
- Coursework (a minimum of 4 college level courses) in the related fields of child life such as family studies, child/human development, education, etc.
- A minimum of 100 hours of practical experience with children from infants through adolescent (examples: nanny, babysitting, early childhood education, and the like)
- A minimum of 40 volunteer hours in a pediatric health care environment or in a setting with children with a chronic illness

Student Expectations

- If the student's academic program/supervisor does not specify practicum requirements, the following guidelines will be used. If the academic site identifies similar or very different tasks, guidelines will be adjusted accordingly.
- Minimum of four written goals for practicum experience
- Weekly reflective journal of experience
- Observe a minimum of 4 medical play sessions, psychological preparation sessions and procedural supports
- Plan, implement and evaluate therapeutic activities per rotation
- Become familiar with and complete medical terminology assignment
- Attend designated in-services and wrap-ups
- Complete required readings
- Complete Developmental Theory Worksheets-connected to a case each week
- Utilize the child life needs assessment form when talking about patients and complete one formal assessment per rotation
- Discussion with each rotation supervisor about use of chart notes
- Plan and facilitate a therapeutic special event collaboratively with other practicum students and Seacrest Studio
- Medical Terminology
- Participate in mock interview and resume review
- Complete self-evaluation and program experience evaluations

THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF PHILADELPHIA
CHILD LIFE, EDUCATION and CREATIVE ARTS THERAPY DEPARTMENT
CHILD LIFE PRACTICUM STUDENT APPLICATION
(120 hour minimum-150 maximum-span of 6 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 _____

College Education:

Please check this circle to indicate you have completed your jr. year of bachelor's degree

Institution Major Graduation Date:

Institution Major Graduation Date:

Institution Major Graduation Date:

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

Supervisor/Advisor Name and Title _____

Supervisor/Advisor Phone _____

CHOP Child Life Practicum Application Checklist

In order to be considered for placement, you must submit the following application materials to with title:
Child Life Practicum Application for spring/summer/fall(please select term) term

To this email in either a zip format or individual files:

Email address

___ Completed application form

___ 200-word essays (maximum) to answer each of the following questions:

1. Tell us about your journey to the field of Child Life
2. Describe the elements you feel that 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 a minimum of 4 professional development goals you hope to accomplish as part of your practicum experience at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

___ Academic Transcripts from all academic institutions you've attended
(Student copy with individual course grades and GPA listed is acceptable)

___ Resume that contains a list of the total number of hours completed for each relevant experience. *Hours for all relevant experiences must be indicated on resume for application to be considered complete.*

___ 2 letters of recommendation from non-relatives that speak about some of the following areas: *motivation, initiative, adaptability and skill set that relates to your work with children.* Letters must be signed by the recommender.

___ Description of academic requirements, including hours required for experience, and the role of the university supervisor must be included if the practicum placement is to be conducted for academic credit or in fulfillment of any academic requirements (i.e., letter from practicum supervisor/advisors and list of academic requirements for placement).

___ Signed application checklist

By signing, I indicate 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: _____