



Child Life Department Practicum Description

Practicum: A *pre-internship experience* open to individuals interested in pursuing a child life internship. A practicum provides the student an opportunity to become familiar with child life and children's reactions to hospitalization, encourages the development of observation and interactive skills with individuals and groups, provides a supportive environment to integrate theory with clinical practice, enhances the student's experience with planning activities and developing communication skills. For additional child life information from the Child Life Council, please visit www.childlife.org.

Diversity of experience is highly encouraged in child life, so doing a practicum and internship at different hospitals would be beneficial to your practice. Therefore, Texas Children's Hospital Child Life Department highly recommends that former practicum students of this program seek internships at other institutions. This may be considered in part of the internship selection process.

Unfortunately, the submission of an application does not guarantee placement at Texas Children's Hospital, as our program has high expectations and a limited number of placements. Due to limited placement availability, we highly recommended that individuals apply for a practicum experience at several institutions.

Entrance Requirements: Applicants must

1. Be enrolled in or have completed coursework that will prepare them to sit for the child life exam (child development, theories of child development, etc.).
2. One 3-hour college level class in growth and development (i.e. human development, child development, developmental psychology) and at least one other 3-hour course related to child life core concepts must be completed before applying for the practicum
3. Have 3.0 GPA on 4.0 point scale for college level coursework completed
4. Have least a junior level standing in their baccalaureate program (i.e. complete at least 60 hours) before starting the practicum program
5. Complete and verify 100 hours of fieldwork experience with healthy children in a structured environment. Experience working with children with special needs or ill/injured children is preferred but not required. For nonacademic applicants, i.e., established professionals who are making a career change, the 100 hours of experience with children must have occurred within the past 12 months.
6. Be able to commit a minimum of 100 hours to be completed in one semester

The goals and objectives:

1. To become familiar with child life profession
2. To integrate theory and research into practice (EBP)
3. To understand the value of play in the health care setting and increases his/her skills in facilitating therapeutic play through planning group and individual activities.
4. To recognizes the developmental, psychosocial, and medical needs of patients and families and how those needs are incorporate into goals of normalization and coping

5. To recognizes and understands patient's and families reactions to stress, illness, and pain
6. To develops communication skills with patients/families and other health professionals
7. To recognizes the importance of working within a interdisciplinary team
8. To continues to develop professional attitudes, maturity, and judgment
9. To sets goals and evaluates his/her own performance

Assignments: Assignments are created to maximize the students learning during the practicum and prepare them for internship. Assignments include but are not limited to: a daily journal, weekly evaluations, assigned readings, activity plans, assigned observation, a project, and a final evaluation.

Application deadlines: The child life department of Texas Children's Hospital offers child life practicum experiences three times per year.

Fall: May 25

Spring: September 25

Summer: January 25

RETURN WITH COMPLETE APPLICATION PACKET TO:

**Texas Children's Hospital
Child Life Services WT 16-277
Attention: Amy Curry, MS, CCLS, Practicum Coordinator
6621 Fannin Street
Houston, Texas 77030**

**Texas Children's Hospital
Child Life Department
Practicum Application**

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: (Day) _____ (Evening) _____ (Cell) _____

Emergency Contact (Name and Phone Number) _____

Applying for: Year: _____

- Fall term
- Spring term
- Summer term

University: _____

Major: _____ Graduation Date: _____

What days and times are you available to fulfill your practicum hours?

What other commitments will you have during your practicum?

Enclosed is a complete practicum application packet:

- Face Sheet
- Practicum Questionnaire
- Official college or university transcript(s) verifying enrollment/ completion of required courses
- Two Letters of Recommendation (one must be familiar with your interest and skills with children and families)
- Verification of 100 hours worked with children (hours printed on organization letterhead)

I understand it is the sole responsibility of the applicant to confirm receipt of application packet. I understand if my application packet is incomplete, I will not be considered for the practicum program.

Date

Signature

**Texas Children's Hospital
Child Life Department
Practicum Questionnaire**

1. What are your career goals?
2. What strengths (skill and talents) would you bring to the child life practicum?
3. What are your growth challenges related to working with children?
4. What are your expectations of a practicum program?