Child Life Practicum Overview

The Children’s Hospital at Saint Francis Mission Statement
To extend the presence and healing ministry of Christ in all we do.

Hospital Overview
The Children’s Hospital at Saint Francis is a 162-bed pediatric hospital. Patients typically range in age from 0-18 years.

Child Life Overview
The Child Life department was established in 1990 and currently has three playrooms and one teen room.

General Practicum Information
Practicum programs are intended to introduce the student to child life, as well as the variety of experiences facing children, adolescents and families in a healthcare setting. The benefits to the student are opportunities to gain experience with hospitalized children and youth, as well as to gain increased comfort with hospital environment and increased practical knowledge of child life. A Certified Child Life Specialist will supervise the student during the practicum. The Children’s Hospital at Saint Francis offers a 10-week Child Life Practicum. Students must complete a minimum of 100 hours. We have chosen to follow the practicum recommendations and standards set forth by The Child Life Council.

Practicum Objectives
Our program is designed to meet the individual learning needs and goals of its practicum students. These goals will be met through program objectives such as:

- Become familiar with the child life profession
- Opportunities to become more comfortable in the healthcare setting
- Develop communication skills with children, adolescents, and families in the healthcare setting, as well as other healthcare professionals
- Recognize and discuss reactions to stress, illness and pain
- Recognize the value of play and psychosocially supportive interventions
- Plan and facilitate a variety of activities for diverse ages in a playroom setting and at bedside
- Demonstrate knowledge of medical terminology, diagnoses and procedures
- Sets goals for learning and evaluate own performance
- Develop professional attitude, growth, maturity and judgment by functioning as a member of the healthcare team
- Opportunities to connect classroom theory to practice
**Expected Assignments**
Assignments may vary depending on individual student and current opportunities. Some expected assignments will be:

- Written individual goals for practicum experience
- Weekly reflective journal or evaluation of experiences
- Weekly supervision
- Weekly focused assignments in pertinent areas of child life
- Observation of other healthcare team members
- Observation of procedures
- Observation of Child Life Specialist interactions and interventions
- Mock Interview to prepare for internship interviews
- Professional guidance
- Activity and developmental worksheets

**Qualifications**
- Students must be enrolled and in good standing with a university during their practicum
- Must have completed a minimum of three classes recommended by the Child Life Council
- Must have a minimum grade point average of 3.0 in core classes
- Must have at least 50 verifiable hours of experience working with children
- Must be at least a sophomore or junior standing

**Required Application Materials**
- Completed application
- Two (2) letters of reference (must be in sealed envelope with author’s signature over the seal)
  - These references should be able to attest to your professionalism and work with children
  - Personal references are not accepted
- Resume
- Official college transcript (one from each university attended)
- Letter on college stationary verifying that you are currently enrolled and in good standing with your school

**Application Submission Guidelines**
- All required application materials must be submitted in one envelope.
- Application must be post-marked by the application deadline.
- Incomplete, late, and applications that do not follow set guidelines will not be reviewed.
- Please do not submit additional items.

**Requirements Once Accepted as a Practicum Student**
- Shadow/observer application
- TB test
- Criminal background check
- Student enrollment verification form
- Must purchase the following books:
  - The Child Life Handbook
  - Meeting Children’s Needs Across the Healthcare Continuum
Information for Current or Prospective Saint Francis Health System Volunteers

- For current/prospective child life specific volunteers
  - Please note that when you started you agreed to a one year commitment with Volunteer Services. If selected to be a student prior to meeting this commitment, you will either have to take a Leave of Absence and fulfill your requirements after your practicum is completed or volunteer in another area of the hospital during your practicum.

- Please be aware that volunteer experience in a healthcare setting is very valuable and preferred, however if you decide to volunteer at our facility you must first have a minimum of 6 months experience before you will be considered to be one of our practicum students.

Please note that a completed application is not a guarantee of acceptance. In order for us to provide students with quality supervision and education during placement, only a limited number of students are accepted per semester. If you have any further questions, please call the Child Life department at 918-502-6333 or e-mail childlifedepth@tulsaok.com.

Submit application to:
The Children’s Hospital at Saint Francis
Attn: Child Life, Children’s Level 3
6161 South Yale Avenue
Tulsa, OK 74136