



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 may 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
fenwickmb@archildrens.org

**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 500 physicians, over 200 residents, and employs more than 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, three patient activity specialists, two artists-in-residence, two music therapists, 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 three clinical rotations under the guidance and supervision of a certified child life specialist. Students may be assigned rotations that include evenings, weekends, and holidays. Students will complete three, one-week rotations. Each week the practicum coordinator will meet with the student and provide additional educational discussions.

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. Applicants must have a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
4. Applicant's curriculum should reflect courses that lead to an understanding of growth and development across the lifespan and family theories.

Experience

1. Applicants must have completed a minimum of 50 hours working or volunteering with children in a structured environment (hospitals, child development centers/schools, camps, etc.). Volunteer experience working with hospitalized children is strongly recommended.

Application Process

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

- Completed practicum application
- Unofficial college or university transcript
- Resume and cover letter

Requirements

Once accepted, all practicum students will be required to complete the following:

- TB test
- Proof of vaccinations
- Drug and tobacco test
- Background check
- Additional required forms from Human Resources

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:
Mandy Fenwick fenwickmb@archildrens.org

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

Application answers must be typed.

Personal Information

Name: _____

Current Address: _____

Permanent Address: _____

Primary Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Emergency Contact Information

Emergency Contact Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Phone Number: _____

Academic Information

College/University: _____

Major/Minor: _____

Year in school: _____

Name of Academic Advisor: _____

School Address: _____

Advisor Phone Number: _____

Advisor Email: _____

Volunteer/Work Experiences

Number of hours working with well children: _____

Number of hours working with children with special needs: _____

Number of hours working with hospitalized children: _____

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

4. Describe a time you used play to meet the developmental needs of a child or adolescent. Please incorporate theory into your answer.