



HOSPITALS • RESEARCH • FOUNDATION

Dear Child Life Practicum Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in our practicum program. This packet includes a description of our practicum program, practicum application, and information about our hospital.

We offer a practicum three times a year: spring, summer, and fall semesters. The practicum is a 12 week, 120 hour program. Child life practicum students may be assigned rotations that include evenings, weekends, and holidays. Practicum students **must be affiliated with a university**. Please note, we are currently unable to accept non-affiliated students.

The practicum curriculum incorporates child life programming challenges and strategies to address current health care issues. Benefits to the students may include the following: opportunities to observe hospitalized children and youth, increased comfort within the hospital environment, increased practical knowledge of child life, and in-service training.

Please return completed application by:

<b>For Practicum Starting:</b>	<b>Application Deadline:</b>
January (Spring)	September 5 <sup>th</sup>
June (Summer)	January 5 <sup>th</sup>
September (Fall)	May 5 <sup>th</sup>

Qualified applicants may be contacted and a telephone interview arranged. Additional pertinent information will be provided upon acceptance.

Thank you for your interest in our program.

Sincerely,

Esther Pipkin, MS, CCLS  
Child Life Practicum Coordinator

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

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Social Security Number:</b>
<b>Current Address:</b>	<b>Home Phone:</b>
	<b>Work Phone:</b>
<b>Home Address:</b>	
	<b>Email Address:</b>
<b>Emergency Contact:</b>	
<b>Name:</b>	<b>Phone:</b>

<b>Application for (circle one):</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Summer</b>	<b>Fall</b>
--------------------------------------	---------------	---------------	-------------

<b>University or College:</b>	
<b>Major:</b>	<b>Minor:</b>
<b>GPA:</b>	<b>Year in school:</b>
<b>Date of graduation:</b>	
<b>Are you completing this practicum for credit?</b>	
<b>If yes, how many hours will you be receiving?</b>	
<b>Academic Supervisor:</b>	
<b>Department:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	
<b>Phone:</b>	

<b>How many hours have you completed working with well children?</b>
<b>How many hours have you completed working with children with special needs?</b>
<b>How many hours have you completed working with hospitalized children?</b>

<b>Are you a member of Association of Child Life Professionals?</b>
<b>Have you ever been convicted of a felony?</b>
<b>If yes, please describe the nature of the offense and the punishment you received:</b>

# **Arkansas Children's Hospital Child Life & Education Department Practicum Information Packet**

## **Arkansas Children's Hospital Mission Statement:**

We champion children by making them better today and healthier tomorrow.

## **Child Life and Education Departmental Information:**

The Child Life and Education Department addresses the emotional, social, educational and recreational needs of hospitalized children and adolescents. Our Child Life department is recognized by the American Academy of Pediatrics and accredited by the Association of Child Life Professionals. Our programs utilize developmentally appropriate activities to minimize stress and anxiety and to foster positive feelings about health care.

## **Hospital Overview:**

Arkansas Children's Hospital is a 336-bed acute-care pediatric hospital. Patients range in age from 0-21 years. Our heart center provides services for patients of all ages.

## **Child Life and Education Overview:**

The Child Life and Education Department was established in 1981 and currently has 7 playrooms, 3 teen activity room, and 1 classroom. There are 15 Child Life Specialists, 1 Child Life Fellow, 3 School Teachers, 3 Patient Activity Specialists, 2 Artists-in-Residence, 1 Music Therapist, an Administrative Assistant, and a Director.

## ***Practicum Overview:***

Arkansas Children's Hospital's Child Life and Education Department offers a 12-week child life practicum. Practicum students must be at a sophomore level in college or beyond. Students must complete a minimum of (2) five hour shifts per week. This program is designed to meet the individual learning needs and goals of its practicum students. These goals/needs will be met through various learning opportunities such as:

- Becomes familiar with the child life profession.
- Develops communication skills with children, families, and health care professionals in the health care setting.
- Recognizes and understands children's/adolescents' reactions to stress, illness, and pain.
- Recognizes the value of play and psychosocially supportive interventions.
- Learns to plan and facilitate a variety of activities for individual children and groups of children of diverse ages and capabilities and practices these skills in activity centers and at bedside.
- Gains knowledge of medical terminology, diagnoses, and procedures.
- Sets goals for learning and evaluates own performance.
- Begins to develop professional attitudes, growth, maturity, and judgment by functioning as a member of the health care team.

**Rotations:**

There will be several clinical rotations under the guidance and supervision of a Patient Activity Specialist and Child Life Specialists. Child Life Practicum students may be assigned rotations that include evenings, weekends, and holidays. Practicum students will complete (3) four-week rotations. The first rotation will be based out of the activity areas and supervised by a Patient Activity Specialist. During the second and third rotations, the student will be assigned to a specific area and supervised by a Child Life Specialist.

**Rotation Opportunities:**

The Child Life and Education department offers a variety of rotation opportunities. Rotations are determined each practicum session. For more information about specific diagnoses that are seen at Arkansas Children’s Hospital, please see the website at <http://www.archildrens.org/Services.aspx>

Practicums are offered three times yearly, beginning in January, June, and September. See below for deadline dates.

<b>For Practicums Starting:</b>	<b>Application Deadline:</b>	<b>Applicant Notifications By:</b>
January (Spring)	September 5	Second Thursday in October
June (Summer)	January 5	Second Thursday in February
September (Fall)	May 5	Second Thursday in June

**Qualifications*****Interpersonal Skills***

Applicants must have well-developed communication skills and be able to build a positive, trusting relationship with both children and adults. Additionally, adaptability and flexibility are essential qualities needed.

***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’ curriculum should reflect courses that lead to an understanding of growth and development across the lifespan and family theories.

***Experience:***

Experience with children in an individual and group basis is preferred; experience with hospitalized children and families is a bonus.

***Application Process:***

Application packet **must** include the following:

- Completed practicum application
- 3 letters of reference
  - At least two letters from a professor, academic advisor, and/or employer
  - No more than one personal reference
- Resume
- **Must be affiliated with a university**

***Requirements:***

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

- TB test
- Proof of vaccinations
- Drug and tobacco test
- Background check
- Attend volunteer orientation

**Completed application and packet should be mailed to the address below:**

Practicum Coordinator  
Child Life & Education Department - Slot 804  
1 Children's Way  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72202