

## Child Life Practicum Job Description

The child life practicum student has an opportunity to experience the Child Life profession through both observation and supervised participation. This learning experience is designed to prepare a student for the more intensive child life internship placement. A minimum of eight hours a week for a total of 120 hours is required.

### Practicum Program Components

- Observation of child life programming in the Pediatrics Unit/Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, Day Surgery Center, and Children's Emergency Department
- Observation of procedural preparations, distraction, coping, play, medical play, and family support
- Observation and supervised participation in group and individualized interventions and assessments
- Opportunity to observe trauma and bereavement support
- Access to departmental resources such as health care team members, library, and articles
- Opportunities to attend seminars given by Child Life Specialists, as well as other team members, inter-disciplinary rounds, care conferences, and other learning opportunities

### Practicum Program Objectives

Throughout the practicum experience, the student will enhance their knowledge and skills to be able to:

- Gain a strong understanding of the practices of child life and be able to articulate an understanding of current issues and trends in child life practice
- Identify child, adolescents and family member reactions to stress, illness, and pain
- Develop communication skills and demonstrate competence in approaching and communicating with children, adolescents, and family members in the healthcare setting
- Learn techniques to determine the developmental and emotional needs of patients and families; and assist in developing and implementing child life care plans based upon individual assessments and child life practice
- Demonstrate, explain, and/or provide techniques that can be used by children to cope with medical procedures or other stressful events
- Recognize the value of developmentally appropriate, therapeutic, and psychosocially supportive interventions
- Increase comfort levels in interacting with members of the interdisciplinary team
- Evaluate own performance and set goals for learning
- Identify ways to integrate classroom knowledge with child life practice

### Assignments

- Complete hospital orientation packet
- Reflect upon practicum experience by completing weekly journals
- Read articles and handouts as assigned by unit and clinical site supervisor
- Participate in a weekly reflection meeting with unit supervisor(s)
- Participate in discussions about practicum experiences with site supervisor
- Read three articles and write an article reflection (one per unit)
- Complete three assessment evaluations (one per unit)
- Create one special project assigned by clinical site supervisor, in collaboration with student and assigned project coordinator (CCLS)
- Complete an evaluation form of the practicum site, supervisors, and practicum experience
- Student will be notified in advance of any other requirements as assigned by the clinical site supervisor