

Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC

Child Life Department
Practicum Student Application

Dear Student,

Thank you for your interest in the Child Life Practicum Program offered by the Child Life Department of the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC. A practicum is a minimum 150 hour *pre-internship* experience for students who are looking for an opportunity to learn more about the Child Life field and role of a Child Life Specialist within a hospital setting. The practicum allows the student to become familiar with children's reactions to the hospital environment, develop their observation and interaction skills with patients, families and staff and practice activity planning based on developmental knowledge. For more information on Child Life, please visit the Child Life Council website at www.childlife.org.

The practicum is structured so that the student will complete 16 hours per week for 16 weeks (an entire semester). The hours required will be dependent upon the number of credits in which the student is registered with their university. The practicum experience will be for one semester only (Fall, Spring or Summer).

For legal purposes, potential practicum candidates **MUST** be enrolled at a college or university *throughout the duration of the desired practicum session*. Upon acceptance to the practicum program and prior to the student's first day, several requirements will need to be met including (but not limited to): a comprehensive health screening, verification of professional liability insurance as stated in a contractual agreement between CHP and the University, as well as proof of complying with the Pennsylvania Acts 33, 34, and 73 requirements.

Entrance Requirements: Applicants Must

1. Be enrolled in a college or university throughout the duration of the practicum program.
2. Have taken a minimum of 5 courses in child life or related topics (i.e. child, family, or human development, family dynamics, psychology, counseling, sociology, expressive therapies).
3. Be at a minimum junior level standing in their baccalaureate program before starting the practicum program. Sophomore standing would be approved contingent upon completion of course work requirement.
4. *Preferred Requirement:* Complete a minimum of 25 volunteer hours with children either in a hospitalized or "well" setting (ie summer camps, church groups, babysitting, etc.)

Goals and Objectives:

- To become more familiar with the child life field.
- To understand the value of play within a hospitalized setting.
- To integrate theory into practice.
- To recognize the developmental, psychosocial and medical needs of children and families and translate those needs into goals of coping and adjustment.
- To develop communication skills in working with patients, families and the medical team

Assignments:

Assignments include, but are not limited to: daily journal entries and developmental observations, research article readings, activity plans, chart notes, and special projects.

Housing, Parking & Meals:

Students are responsible for making their own arrangements for housing, parking and meals. For your convenience, a refrigerator, oven, and microwave are located in the Child Life office. The hospital complex and the surrounding area offer many possibilities for meals.

Application Deadline:

FALL: May 5

SPRING: September 5

SUMMER: January 5

If you are interested in applying for a practicum placement with our program, please submit the following information:

- a completed application
- two letters of reference
- an official school transcript
- a current resume

Please send the COMPLETED application to:

**Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC
Child Life Practicum Coordinator, Child Life Department
4401 Penn Avenue, Suite 01266
Pittsburgh, PA 15224-1334**

If you have any additional questions, please contact Rebecca Baker-(412)692-7127, rebecca.baker@chp.edu or Alanna Kanawalsky-(412)864-8808, alanna.kanawalsky@chp.edu

Sincerely,

Rebecca Baker, M.S., CCLS
Certified Child Life Specialist
Practicum Co-Coordinator
Child Life Department
Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC
(412) 692-7127
rebecca.baker@chp.edu

Alanna Kanawalsky, MS, CCLS
Certified Child Life Specialist
Practicum Co-Coordinator
Child Life Department
Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC
(412) 864-8808
alanna.kanawalsky@chp.edu

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Child Life Department
Practicum Application

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Emergency Contact Name and Phone #: _____

College/University: _____

Degree Sought or Acquired: _____

Major: _____

Date of Expected Graduation: _____

Requested Practicum Session: Fall _____ Spring _____ Summer _____

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

- What other commitments will you have during your practicum?

- Please attach a typed response addressing why you want to be a practicum student and reasons why you should be chosen.

Enclosed is a complete practicum application packet:

___ Application

___ Typed Response

___ Official college or university transcript(s)

___ Two Letters of Recommendation (one must be familiar with your interest and skills with children and families)

___ Current Resume

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

Signature _____ Date _____