



Thank you for your interest in the Practicum Student Program with the Child and Adolescent Life Department at Duke Children's Hospital. Our practicum program is offered three times per year: Spring; Summer; Fall. The practicum is generally a 200-250 hour experience requiring a commitment of 13 weeks. Throughout the practicum, students are supervised by certified Child Life Specialists. To be considered for a practicum students must have a 3.0 grade point average or higher and have documented experience with children through a paid or volunteer position.

Enclosed you will find a brief description about the practicum program, an application and a brochure. Your application packet must be postmarked by the following dates:

March 1 (Summer)

July 1 (Fall)

October 1 (Spring)

A practicum student completed application includes:

1. The completed application form.
2. A 200 – 500 word essay describing your philosophy of Child Life, the strengths you will bring to a practicum, areas in which you would like more growth and how you envision a practicum experience to contribute to your academic and professional goals.
3. Two letters of recommendation (preferably one from someone who knows your academic qualifications and one from someone who has supervised or observed you in a field experience) sealed on letterhead with original signature.
4. A copy of your resume, listing your education and field experience to date.
5. A sealed certified (official) copy of your transcript.
6. A cover letter from your academic advisor that clearly states what academic credit you will receive (if any) and any specific academic requirements you will need to accomplish during this experience.

It is the applicant's responsibility to solicit the recommendations and official transcript. Upon receipt and review of the **completed** application, the Internship Coordinator will be in contact with the applicant. Personal interviews will be conducted following the application review process. Only completed applications will be considered for review.

Please return the entire completed application and materials via the United States Postal System to:

Student Internship Coordinator  
Child and Adolescent Life Program  
Box 3417  
Duke Children's Hospital  
Durham, NC 27710

Please do not hesitate to call me at (919) 668-4969 should you have any questions regarding the practicum.

**DUKE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL**  
Child and Adolescent Life Program  
Student Practicum Program

The Child and Adolescent Life Program at Duke Children's Hospital was established in 1969. Child Life Specialists work as part of the interdisciplinary health care team collaborating with nurses, doctors, social workers, school teachers, respiratory therapists, physical and occupational therapists, dieticians, chaplains and other technicians providing comprehensive quality patient care.

The Child Life staff consists of six full-time and two part-time specialists with Bachelor and Master degrees in a variety of fields including Child Life, School Psychology, Education, Child Development, Recreation Administration, Counseling Psychology, Psychobiology and Social Work. Child Life services are currently provided in seven areas including: 5100 Inpatient Unit (Hematology/Oncology, Allergy/Immunology, Infections Disease, Rheumatology, Endocrinology, Neurology, Plastics and General Pediatric Medicine); 5200 Inpatient Unit (Pediatric Bone Marrow and Stem Cell Transplant Unit); 5300 Inpatient Unit (Cardiology, Pulmonary, Critical Care Medicine, Urology, Orthopedics, Neurosurgery and Gastroenterology); 7700 Short stay Inpatient Unit; PICU (Pediatric Intensive Care Unit); Pediatric Specialty Clinics (Outpatient clinics serving 26 subspecialties); Pre-operative Screening Unit.

Child Life Specialists strive to meet the psychosocial and emotional needs of pediatric patients and their families helping the child cope constructively with the stress and anxiety experienced in the health care environment. Specialists also promote the pediatric patient's normal growth and development before, during and after hospitalization or outpatient clinic visits. These primary goals are achieved in a variety of ways including, but not limited to: providing developmentally appropriate therapeutic play opportunities both in the group setting in the playroom and on an individual basis; psychologically and emotionally preparing children and families for medical/surgical and diagnostic procedures; advocating for the needs of children and their families in the health care setting, providing emotional support to patients, parents and siblings, and helping to maintain a child and family friendly environment.

## DUKE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

### Child and Adolescent Life Practicum Program

#### Objectives and Responsibilities

This practicum placement is meant to serve as an introduction to Child Life for students who have an interest in pursuing Child Life or a related field as a career. The following is a list of the responsibilities and expected experiences for a practicum student.

- Observe the role of the Child Life Specialist in various settings (PICU, pre-op, clinic, in-patient).
- Observe and implement group and individual activities for children birth-18 years.
- Observe and assist with medical play for individuals and groups of children.
- Observe and assist with supervision of volunteers.
- Provide emotional support for patients and families.
- Expand knowledge of medical terminology.
- Assist in the facilitation of special events, entertainers, visitors.
- Observe medical procedures when appropriate.
- Observe and assist with pre-procedural/preoperative preparation.
- Observe interdisciplinary team meetings.
- Attend and participate in weekly student seminars by certified Child Life Specialists.

**DUKE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL**  
Child and Adolescent Life Program  
PRACTICUM APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Current Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Current Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

University or College \_\_\_\_\_

Major \_\_\_\_\_

Degree sought      BS/BA                      MS/MA                      (circle one)

Expected Graduation Date \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Point Average \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ (major / cumulative)

Academic/Practicum Advisor \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Which practicum are you applying for?

Spring  
(January – April)

Summer  
(May – August)

Fall  
(September – December)

**For more information please contact**  
**Jessica N. Palumbo, CCLS, Student Internship Co-Coordinator**  
**Child Life Office: 919.668.4969**

