

Child Life Practicum Application

The Child Life Department at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital offers a 120 hour practicum experience for individuals pursuing a career as a certified child life specialist. A practicum is a pre-internship learning experience for child life students. Practicums are not required for most child life internships or for certification. However, the experiences, knowledge, and mentorship that you will gain will undoubtedly prepare you and set you apart in this competitive field.

Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital provides practicum students with the opportunity to engage with patients of various diagnoses and conditions. Your experience may include, but is not limited to:

- Shadowing child life specialists on the unit.
- Observing procedures.
- Spending one-on-one time with patients.
- Observing, planning, and implementing various modalities of play:
 - Medical play
 - Developmental play
 - Therapeutic Play
 - Recreational play
- Facilitating group/individual sessions in our Child Life Zone play space.
- Helping with utilization of department resources.
- Assisting with child life programming and events.
- Completing weekly readings and assignments to develop your pre-internship knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs), which we have adapted from the ACLP pre-internship learning modules.

Practicum Prerequisites

- ✓ 50 hours volunteering/working with children and families within healthcare
- ✓ 50 hours volunteering/working with children and families outside of healthcare
- ✓ Current enrollment in, or completion of, a bachelor's or master's degree in a related field of study
- ✓ Minimum of 3 completed courses in any of the following content areas: *
 - 1 child life course taught by a CCLS
 - 2 child development courses
 - 1 family systems course
 - 1 play course
 - 1 loss/bereavement or death/dying course
 - 1 research course
 - 3 additional courses in related areas (in accordance with ACLP guidelines)

** Prior to your child life internship and certification, the ACLP will require that you must successfully complete all 10 eligible courses for academic eligibility. For our practicum, we only require 3 classes to ensure that you are committed and on the "right track" towards securing a child life internship. Please refer to the ACLP for additional information [2019-eligibility-details.pdf \(childlife.org\)](https://www.childlife.org/2019-eligibility-details.pdf)*

Application Requirements- Emailed to childlife@mhs.net

- ☐ A completed application form
- ☐ An unofficial transcript from each university you have attended
- ☐ 2 professional letters of recommendation emailed privately from your reference to childlife@mhs.net. (At least one of your letters should be written by a reference who has directly observed your interactions with children.)
- ☐ A current resume
- ☐ A cover letter outlining why you are interested in a practicum at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital along with 3 goals/objectives that you wish to accomplish.

Child Life Practicum Application Form

Full Name				
Address				
Phone				
Email				
Affiliated or Independent?				
Relevant Coursework (3 classes)	Course Title		Final Grade	
	Course Title		Final Grade	
	Course Title		Final Grade	
Relevant Healthcare Experience with Children (50 hours)	Institution/Position		Hours Completed	
	Institution/Position		Hours Completed	
	Institution/Position		Hours Completed	
	Institution/Position		Hours Completed	
Relevant Non- Healthcare Experience with Children (50 hours)	Institution/Position		Hours Completed	
	Institution/Position		Hours Completed	
	Institution/Position		Hours Completed	
	Institution/Position		Hours Completed	

Additional Information

- **Interviews:** Students selected for an interview will be interviewed by a panel of child life specialists. Virtual accommodations can be made for students out-of-state. Should we receive a high volume of applicants, we may initiate a preliminary phone screening. Applicants can expect to be interviewed on knowledge related to the child life profession, developmental theories, applying theory to practice, developmentally appropriate play, and past experiences working with children.
- **Onboarding:** Upon acceptance to the program, the practicum coordinator will assist students in coordinating their schedule and initiating the onboarding process. Please be aware that you may be asked to provide the following information prior to your start date:
 - Vaccination records
 - Background check
 - Proof of CPR for clinical students (BLS for Healthcare Providers)
 - Proof of individual student liability insurance (for independent students)
 - Proof of college/university affiliation agreement (for affiliated students)
- **Housing:** Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital does not provide housing for students. All students must make their own housing arrangements.
- **Stipend:** No stipends are provided for child life practicum students.
- **Schedule:** We will try our best to be flexible with your needs as a student. A typical schedule is 3 full days a week over 5 weeks. Accommodations may be discussed if needed. Weekends and evenings are ***not*** likely to be available.

Any additional questions should be directed to childlife@mhs.net