



**Children's Medical Center Dallas
Child Life / Child Development Department
Child Life Practicum Info Sheet**

With the oldest child life program in Texas and one of the largest in the country, Children's is dedicated to helping its hospitalized patients develop normally despite health problems. Members of our child life staff hold advanced-degree training in the growth and development of children. They provide age-appropriate information to help children cope with the hospital and prepare them emotionally for invasive procedures and surgery. Techniques include diagnosis-specific education, music therapy and play therapy.

The child life department is committed to providing quality education and training for future child life professionals. Practicums are organized to provide students the opportunity to gain insight and exposure to the child life profession and also help students understand the unique needs of hospitalized children and families. Our Child Life Practicum here at Children's Medical Dallas is 144 hours, 9 weeks long and unpaid. Students are expected to work approximately 16 hours a week, either Mon/Wed or Tues/Thurs. Throughout the practicum students are given opportunities to observe other child life specialists, strengthen therapeutic group play supervision skills, develop assessment and intervention skills with individual patients, and enhance their understanding of the medical environment. The student's clinical supervisor, practicum committee, as well as other child life specialists will be available to provide instruction and guidance throughout this experience.

The practicum curriculum involves both clinical and non-clinical requirements. You will be required to read the supplied articles and texts, process your experiences in a weekly journal, and plan therapeutic group playroom/teen-room activities. We also have students complete two more in depth written assignments to learn about assessment and prioritizing patients. Lastly you will be required to do a final project which is a portfolio of school and practicum assignments and references to prepare you for internship.

To apply you will be required to complete the attached application, send your **résumé**, an **essay about why you want to become a child life specialist**, your **transcripts** (from all academic institutions attended), and **two letters of recommendation** from professors or someone who has observed your work with children. Application packets must be postmarked by the application deadline. **Please send all application materials together.**

After we receive applications, we review all of these items and make selections of who we would like to interview. We only accept two practicum students for each rotation (fall, winter, summer), so it can be very competitive. We are looking for those candidates who are serious about the profession of child life.

Please note candidates for practicum **MUST** have completed a minimum of **fifteen (15) hours of related coursework and have some experience with children at the time of application.**

Children’s Medical Center Dallas has several requirements that need to be met by students participating in clinical rotations. These requirements include a current immunization record including a TB screening, a drug screen, and criminal background check. This information will need to be provided following acceptance into the practicum program:

1. Immunization Records & TB Test- Students must provide verification that their immunization records are up to date, including a TB test that’s been conducted within the last 8 weeks. Children’s does not provide health screens for students.
2. Drug Screen- If you are affiliated with a university, your university will need to provide a urine based drug screen and have the results sent to CMCD. If you are not currently affiliated with a university, you will need to obtain a drug screen from an outside company and have the results sent to CMCD.
3. Background Check- If you are affiliated with a university, your university will need to provide a current background screen. If you are an unaffiliated student, CMCD will perform a background check for you at a cost of approximately \$40.
4. If you are not currently affiliated with a university, you will be required to obtain student liability insurance. The cost for this is approximately \$30-\$40 for one year. We can provide you with the name of company that specializes in this service.

For Practicum Starting:	Application Deadline:	Interviews During:	Applicant Notifications By:	Applicant Acceptance By:
January	October 3	October	October 22	October 28
June	March 3	March	March 22	March 28
September	June 3	June	June 22	June 28

Note: The actual time frame of the practicum experience may vary.

If you have any further questions please contact me.

Sincerely,

Kellye Carroll, MS, CCLS, CIMI
 Education Coordinator
 Certified Child Life Specialist
 Children's Medical Center Dallas

Phone: 214-456-6281
 Fax: 214-456-6215
kellye.carroll@childrens.com

**Children's Medical Center Dallas
Child Life Department
Practicum Application**

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail address: _____

Telephone: _____

Academic Institution, Major, Degree and (expected) graduation date (most recent first):

Desired Date of Practicum: _____

If you will be receiving academic credit for your practicum, please provide the name and address for your university affiliated contact person:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail address: _____

I wish to be considered for the child life practicum. I will forward:

- Transcripts from all universities attended (student copy is acceptable),
- Current resume
- 2 letters of reference, one from a professor and one from someone who has observed your work with children
- A 250-300 word essay addressing the following: **How did you learn about the child life profession and what interests you most about this field?**
- Completed written answers to the following questions (see pages 4-5).

Signature

Date

Please return to: Practicum Program
Child Life Department
Children's Medical Center Dallas,
1935 Motor Street,
Dallas, TX 75235

Phone: 214-456-6280
Fax: 214-456-6215

List 5 courses of your academic program and describe how those courses will help you in your endeavors to become a Child Life Specialist.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

How did you learn about our practicum program?

What do you expect to gain from the practicum experience?

What other obligations will you have during your practicum (work, school, etc.)?

List your experience working with children:

List volunteer positions you have held:

List any previous experiences in the area of health care:

List any experiences you have had with a Child Life Specialist or other health care professional in a medical setting? Please describe your observations briefly....

What resources have you utilized to learn about the child life profession and theory?

What steps are you planning to take to become a child life specialist?
