

**Children's Medical Center Dallas  
Child Life Department Fellowship**

1. The fellowship provides a stipend for a full-time, 12 month (40 hours per week) placement. Experience, training and supervision are provided in all facets of our Child Life-Child Development Department.
2. Each 40-hour week will include (approximately):
  - a. 35- hours--clinical/direct work with children and planning for this work
  - b. 1-1/2 hours--case presentation/departmental staff education
  - c. 1 hour--in-service education--5 days a week during the first 3-4 months
  - d. 1-2 hours--health care team's patient conferences
  - e. 30 minutes--Child Life-Child Development Department calendar meeting
3. The fellowship will provide the following:
  - a. Experience in several phases of a child life program
  - b. Clinical experience with children of all ages and their families and patients representing a variety of both acute and chronic diagnoses, in a private, non-profit tertiary care setting
  - c. Participation as a member of the health care team and in psychosocial conferences
  - d. Work with families from diverse sociocultural backgrounds
  - e. Administrative experience through:
    - Supervision of volunteers
    - Planning and coordinating in-service education
    - Program evaluation: development and use of evaluation tools and performance improvement initiatives
4. Practical skills that are emphasized, developed and incorporated into daily functioning as a child life specialist in the fellowship include:
  - a. Charting patients' progress in medical records
  - b. Assessment of children's development (e.g., use of Denver II)
  - c. Assessment of children as basis for child life care planning
  - d. Evaluation of self-performance and programming
  - e. Preparation of children for hospitalization, surgery and procedures
  - f. Communication skills:
    - Therapeutic skills for work with children and families
    - Skill development for communicating with other disciplines in individual and group settings
  - g. Assessment of environments
  - h. Effective and efficient use of self as a therapeutic tool

5. Clinical rotations for the child life specialist in the fellowship position are established after evaluation of both the interests of the Fellow and current departmental needs and staffing.
6. This fellowship is awarded to individuals who:
  - a. Are committed to career development in child life
  - b. Desire experience with all ages and diagnoses in pediatrics (this can help clarify particular interest in ages and/or diagnoses before commitment to a job role with one specific area or give experience with all ages and diagnoses for jobs in small, comprehensive pediatric units.)
7. Included in the department are child life specialists, a departmental secretary, a child life fellow, child life assistants, and music therapists. The staff has a wide range of experience and professional interests. Staff members are involved in Child Life Council activities, and local organizations advocating for children's health. To date, over 30 individuals have completed the Fellowship.
8. Children's Medical Center Dallas is one of the largest pediatric providers in the nation and is ranked one of the top 25 pediatric hospitals in the country by *U.S. News and World Report*. As the primary pediatric teaching facility for the University Of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, Children's is the only academic hospital in North Texas dedicated exclusively to the comprehensive care of children from birth to age 18. Private and not-for-profit, Children's is licensed for 406 beds, has more than 50 pediatric sub-specialty ambulatory programs and is the only pediatric hospital in the Southwest with a designated Level I trauma center. In addition, the child life program at Parkland Memorial Hospital provides services to Burn Unit, Newborn Intensive Care Nursery, Newborn Nursery and is managed by Children's Medical Center Dallas.

Applications are reviewed in June of each year. Deadline to apply is June 1. You will be contacted between June 15 and July 15 regarding an interview. The Fellowship year begins in September.

Benefits:

1. Monthly stipend
2. Medical-dental insurance
3. Educational materials (books, papers, pamphlets, etc.)
4. Free employee parking
5. Opportunity for certification in assessment techniques (varies with interest)

Children's Medical Center Dallas  
Child Life Fellowship Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

If you anticipate a change in above address before July 15, please give forwarding address and phone:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: H: \_\_\_\_\_ C: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution and Academic Degrees (list most recent first): Year/Degree Conferred:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone--Primary: \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to be considered for the Child Life Fellowship. I will forward:

1. resume
2. academic transcripts
3. 2 letters of reference-
  - one from an academic professor
  - one from someone who has supervised your work with children
4. A 300-500 word essay, describing the ways in which the work of a child life specialist contributes to the health care experience of a child and his/her family.

Applicants will be selected for interview based on credentials submitted.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signed Date

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

Phone: 214-456-6280

Fellowship year extends from September through August. Application must be received by June 1.