

THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF PHILADELPHIA
CHILD LIFE, EDUCATION and CREATIVE ARTS THERAPY DEPARTMENT

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in our child life practicum/therapeutic recreation junior internship program. Three times a year we offer entry-level training in the Child Life, Education and Creative Arts Therapy Department.

This training is intended to introduce the undergraduate student to child life or therapeutic recreation, as well as the variety of experiences facing children and adolescents in a healthcare setting. A certified child life specialist (CCLS) or certified therapeutic recreation specialist (CTRS) will supervise the student as he or she participates in individual and group activities with children and families.

Practicum/junior internship students must have completed core curriculum, including child development course work, and must have demonstrated successful experiences with children. This type of training is highly recommended for those students who are considering a career as a child life specialist or therapeutic recreation specialist. Practicum/junior internship students must complete 8-12 hours per week for a period of 15 weeks. To ensure that you have a broad range of experiences that make you the most marketable job candidate, we recommend that you complete your practicum and internship and two different locations.

Application submission deadlines are as follows:

Training Dates	Application Deadline
January	October 5 th
May/June	February 5 th
September	June 5 th

Application for practicum/junior internship training requires submission of a completed application as well as an interview. Application is not a guarantee of acceptance. Due to the expectation that we provide students with quality supervision and education during placement, a limited number of students are accepted per semester. Should you have any further questions please call the Child Life, Education and Creative Arts Therapy Department at 215-590-2001.

Sincerely,

Student Program Coordinator
Child Life, Education & Creative Arts Therapy Department

PRACTICUM/JUNIOR INTERNSHIP JOB DESCRIPTION

The practicum student is widely exposed to the child life/therapeutic recreation profession through observation and supervised participation. This (minimum 100 hours) exposure is designed to prepare the student for a more intensive, career oriented training experience in child life or a related field.

Program components

- Observation of inpatient and outpatient child life/therapeutic recreation services
- Enhance understanding of child development and the effects of health care experiences on children
- Enhance understanding of the value of play and appropriate play activities for the healthcare setting
- Facilitate group and individual diversional and therapeutic activities
- Observe medical play, psychological preparation and procedural support to gain a better understanding of the role of a child life specialist
- Develop understanding of the multifaceted role of the child life/therapeutic recreation professional

Practicum objectives

Through observation, collaboration with various child life staff, active participation in child life/therapeutic recreation programming and ongoing supervision and feedback, the practicum student will:

- Become familiar with the child life/therapeutic recreation profession
- Recognize reactions to stress, illness and pain in children from infancy through adolescence and family members
- Develop communication skills with children from infancy through adolescence and family members in the healthcare setting
- Understand the importance of establishing and maintaining therapeutic relationships with patients and families
- Recognize the value of play and psychosocially supportive interventions
- Identify ways to integrate theoretical developmental knowledge with practice
- Evaluate own performance and set goals for learning
- In a timely and professional manner complete designated assignments that are developed to aid in learning

Program Pre-requisites

- Completion of Junior year of Bachelors level degree
- Coursework in the related fields of child life such as family studies, child/human development, education, etc.

- At least 100 hours of practical experience with children from infants through adolescent. Some of these hours must be in a pediatric health care environment or in a setting with children with a chronic illness

Student Expectations

If the student's academic program/supervisor does not specify practicum requirements, the following guidelines will be used. If the academic site identifies similar or very different tasks, guidelines will be adjusted accordingly.

- Three written goals for practicum experience
- Weekly reflective journal of experience
- Observe a minimum of 4 medical play sessions, psychological preparation sessions and procedural supports
- Plan, implement and evaluate 3 therapeutic activities per rotation
- Become familiar with and complete medical terminology assignment
- Attend designated in-services and wrap-ups
- Complete required readings
- Complete 3 Developmental Assessment Worksheets per rotation
- Utilize the child life needs assessment form when talking about patients and complete one formal assessment per rotation
- Discussion with each rotation supervisor about use of chart notes
- Plan and Facilitate a Special Event
- Participate in mock interview and resume review
- Complete self-evaluation and program experience evaluations

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PRACTICUM/JUNIOR INTERNSHIP STUDENT APPLICATION
(100 hour minimum; part-time)

Please check one: Child Life Practicum
 Therapeutic Recreation Junior Internship

Today's Date _____ Preferred Training Semester _____

Personal Information:

Name _____

Permanent Address _____

_____ Phone _____

Current Address _____

_____ Phone _____

E-mail address: _____

Contact Person (for message or emergency) _____

Relation to Applicant _____

Contact Phone _____

College Education:

Institution	Major	Graduation Date
_____	_____	_____

Supervisor/Advisor Name and Title _____

Supervisor/Advisor Phone _____

In order to be considered for placement, you must submit a completed application, along with:

- ___ 200 to 500 word essay describing your philosophy of child life or therapeutic recreation
- ___ List of (minimum 4) personal/professional goals for the training experience at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
- ___ Most recent academic transcript (student copy is acceptable)
- ___ Resume that contains a list of total number of hours completed for each relevant experience
- ___ 2 letter of recommendation from non-relatives that speak about some of the following areas: motivation, initiative, adaptability and skill set that relates to your work with children
- ___ Description of academic requirements and the role of the university supervisor (i.e. letter from practicum/junior internship supervisor and list of academic requirements for placement) must be included if the practicum/junior internship placement is to be conducted for academic credit or in fulfillment of any academic requirements

Return completed application and materials listed above to:

Student Program Coordinator

Child Life, Education and Creative Arts Therapy Department

The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

34th St. and Civic Center Blvd., Main, Room #8540

Philadelphia, PA 19104

Fax: (215)590-2023

For further information: 215-590-2001