



OUR LADY OF THE LAKE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Dear Child Life Practicum Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in Our Lady of Lake Children's Hospital's practicum program. In this packet, you will find information pertaining to our hospital and practicum program, as well as the application.

We offer a practicum based on staff availability. **To inquire about open practicum opportunities, please email childlifeinternship@fmolhs.org.**

Once applications are received, qualified applicants will be contacted to arrange a phone interview.

Thank you for your interest in our program. If you have any additional questions, you can contact 225-374-1324 or childlifeinternship@fmolhs.org.

Sincerely,

Ashley Bares, CCLS
Rachael Raney, CCLS
Certified Child Life Specialist
Student Coordinator



OUR LADY OF THE LAKE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center is a Catholic health care facility whose mission is to care for those most in need. Our Lady of the Lake Children's Hospital is a freestanding children's hospital within the organization.

The Children's Hospital currently has 97 pediatric inpatient beds broken down into two general pediatric units (inpatient surgical and inpatient medical), inpatient hematology/oncology, universal care, neonatal intensive care, and pediatric intensive care. OLOL Children's Hospital also has an Emergency Department, Outpatient Surgical Services, Outpatient Radiology.

The mission of the Child Life Department at OLOL Children's Hospital is to facilitate positive adjustment to hospitalization by providing and advocating for services, which are family-centered, psychosocially sound, and developmentally appropriate. The Child Life Department uses education, procedural preparation, procedural distraction, emotional support, therapeutic play, and developmentally appropriate activities to decrease stress and promote coping during a hospitalization.

The Child Life Department is staffed by 9 full time certified Child Life Specialists and 3 PRN certified Child Life Specialists.

A Child Life Practicum provides students who are majoring in Child Life, Family Studies, Child Development, or a related field the opportunity to work with hospitalized children under the supervision of a certified Child Life Specialist. Practicum students will observe the Child Life Specialist facilitate pre-procedural preparation, procedural support and distraction, medical/therapeutic play, and diagnosis education. Practicum students will also participate in playroom programming and provide bedside play. Practicum students will also begin introducing services to patients and families. Ultimately, this experience is designed to prepare you to successfully enter into a child life internship experience.

Practicum Goals/Objectives:

1. Demonstrate a personal level of comfort within the hospital environment.
2. Demonstrate basic knowledge regarding children's responses to hospitalization, developmental issues, and planning to meet therapeutic/developmental needs.
3. Demonstrate knowledge regarding the importance of therapeutic play and creating a therapeutic environment through observations.
4. Demonstrate the ability to build rapport with patients, caregivers, and engage patients in therapeutic activities.
5. Demonstrate increasing knowledge in basic approaches of introduction of services, preparation, and medical play
6. Demonstrate the ability to set goals and objectives for personal and professional development
7. Demonstrate increasing knowledge and abilities through weekly journals and assignments

Application

Application packet must include:

- Completed Application
- Letter of Reference (from any professional that has directly observed your work with children) – *must be emailed directly to childlifeinternship@fmolhs.org from the reference.*
- Résumé
- Verification of hours worked with well and sick children (*use form at end of application*-print multiple copies if needed)

Incomplete application packets will not be considered.

Additional Requirements

- Completion of **50 hours** working with sick children in a hospital child life program or a medical camp.
- Completion of **50 hours** working with well children (nanny, teaching, etc.)
- Minimum 2.5 overall GPA
- Copy of transcripts from all institutions attended (unofficial copies will be accepted)

Additional Notes

- Due to the rise in AI assisted technology that students have access to; our department has initiated the use of an AI screener to screen application content. If the screener tool suspects or confirms AI generated content in your application or essays, it will be considered incomplete and will not be advanced to the next round of review.
- We strongly encourage our students to enroll in an Introduction to Child Life course taught by a Certified Child Life Specialist if they have not completed one already to meet internship requirements if your plan is to apply for internship upon completion of a practicum.

Applications should be completed and emailed to childlifeinternship@fmolhs.org

Once the application deadline has passed, all applications will be reviewed, and qualified applicants will be contacted to arrange a phone interview. The most qualified and suitable candidate will then be offered the practicum position.

Students completing the practicum for school credit should seek assistance from their university advisor to discuss arrangements to obtain university credit.

Start/finish date and the number of hours to be completed will be discussed and agreed upon by the student, university advisor, and Child Life Practicum Coordinator. Typically, students obtain 120-150 hours during their practicum.

Various assignments and article reviews will be due throughout the practicum experience. Practicum students will have two rotations with the opportunity to observe in other units as staffing allows.

Application – all steps below must be completed

Step 1: Questions

**Provide *brief* answers to the follow questions on a separate sheet of paper.
(200 maximum word limit)**

1. Describe the relevant course work you have completed and how it has prepared you for a practicum.
2. In your own words, describe your understanding of the role of a Child Life Specialist.
3. Why do you want to become a Child Life Specialist?
4. Describe your experience with well children.
5. Describe your experience with sick children.
6. Describe your expectations and goals of this experience.



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Step 2: Practicum Application

First Name:		Last Name:	
Current Address:			
City:		State/Zip:	
Phone:	Email:		
University/College Name:			
Major:		Degree:	
Anticipated Graduation Date:		GPA:	Year in School: Junior Senior
Are you completing this practicum for class credit? (circle one) YES NO			
If yes, what is the class number/code? _____			
List any certifications:			



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Step 3: Verification of Hours Worked with Children

Applicant's Name:	
Location/Organization Name:	
Total Hours Earned:	Circle One: Well Children Sick Children
Supervisor's Name:	Supervisor's Phone:
Applicant's Roles/Responsibilities:	
Comments:	

Supervisor's Signature: _____