



## 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 practicum opportunities based on staff availability. **To inquire about open practicum opportunities, please email [childlifeinternship@fmolhs.org](mailto:childlifeinternship@fmolhs.org).**

If submitting an application, please return your completed application by:

[2023 Opportunities](#)

**Summer Practicum (Starts in June/July)**

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>**

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](mailto:childlifeinternship@fmolhs.org).

Sincerely,

**Logan Talbert, BS, CCLS**  
**Ashley Bares, BS, CCLS**  
**Sharon Wesberry, BS, CCLS**  
Child Life Student Team



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. We will be adding an additional 6 beds to our inpatient hematology/oncology unit in June 2021. OLOL Children's Hospital also has an Emergency Department and Outpatient Surgical Services.

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 familycentered, 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 7 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 in a sealed and signed envelope
- 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 3.0 overall GPA
- Copy of transcripts from all institutions attended (unofficial copies will be accepted)
- Do not include paper clips, post-its, staples, folders, or page protectors
- \*\*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 upon completion of a practicum.

Applications should be completed and mailed to following address:

**Our Lady of the Lake Children's Hospital  
Child Life Department  
8300 Constantin Blvd.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70809  
Attn: Child Life Practicum Coordinator**

Once the application deadline has passed, all applications will be reviewed, and qualified applicants will be contacted to arrange a Zoom 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. Areas that the student will rotate through will be discussed prior to the start of the practicum experience.

Various assignments including daily journals, article reviews, and developmental assignments will be due throughout the practicum experience.

## **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: <b>Junior</b> <b>Senior</b>	
Are you completing this practicum for class credit? (circle one) <b>YES</b> <b>NO</b>			
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:  <b>Well Children      Sick Children</b>
Supervisor's Name:	Supervisor's Phone:
Applicant's Roles/Responsibilities:	
Comments:	

Supervisor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_