

**UNMH
Child Life
Practicum Program**

General Information

The practicum is an introductory to the Child Life experience. It provides students the opportunity to gain insight and exposure to the Child Life profession. In a practicum setting students learn the special and unique needs of hospitalized children and their families through play opportunities. During the Child Life practicum students are assigned to outpatient, inpatient and therapeutic recreation settings. Students are closely supervised by Child Life staff throughout their practicum. In addition they will receive feedback and an evaluation to help them gain skills and increase comfort levels.

Differences between volunteer work and practicum

Volunteering in a hospital is an excellent way to see if you would like the work in this environment and gain exposure to the hospital routines. Volunteering, however, does not count as a Child Life Practicum. Practicums are more structured, provide direct supervision by Child Life Staff, and have a set of requirements to be completed.

How long does it take to complete a practicum?

Our practicum is a semester long course in which students complete 120 hours in the hospital. The student's schedule is set before the practicum begins. They typically complete 10 hours a week for 12 weeks. When setting up a student's schedule, we require that each block of time be at least 2.5 to 3 hours long to insure a quality experience.

** Attendance is extremely important to ensure that the 120 hours are completed in the specified time period.*

What are the practicum requirements?

Students will be expected to complete the following:

- Complete hospital volunteer requirements
- Complete assigned readings and orientations
- Daily journal entries
- 4 article abstracts
- 4 formal observations
- Plan and implement developmentally appropriate activities for hospitalized children
- Complete an evaluation at the end of your experience
- Medical procedure observation and reactions
- Other requirements as assigned

Do I have to know a lot about childhood illnesses and diseases?

No, the practicum is an introductory course, which focuses on the child's emotional reaction to hospitalization and the medical experience. The foundation of play in healthcare setting will be explored.

Learning opportunities

- Become familiar with the child life profession. Both inpatient and outpatient areas.
- Develop communication skills with children/families in the healthcare setting, as well as other health care professionals.
- Recognize and understand children's reactions to stress, illness and pain
- Recognize the value of play and psychosocial interventions.
- Learn to plan and facilitate a variety of activities for children of diverse ages and capabilities.
- Gain some knowledge of medical terminology, diagnosis and procedures.
- Observe medical play and preparation for procedures.
- Observe coping and distraction techniques.

Supervision

Students will be assigned to a Child Life supervisor who will be responsible for setting up their schedule, assigning required due dates for journal entries and article abstracts, facilitating orientation and overseeing all practicum details. Students will meet with the supervisor once a week to go over experience and answer any questions or clarify any concerns that may arise during the course of the week.

Responsibilities

- To follow the department and hospital policies and procedure.
- To complete all requirements within the time frame assigned.
- Follow guidelines and expectations set up by supervisor in each area that you are assigned.

Prerequisites for the practicum program

Students applying for our program should be exploring a career in Child Life and be working towards a degree in a family related field, which includes but is not limited to Child Life, child development, human growth and development.

Application Process

- Complete practicum student application
- Submit application, which should include 2 letters of recommendations and a resume.
- If you qualify you will be contacted to come in for an interview
- If you are chosen a date will be selected for start date once the hospital requirements are fulfilled.

Hospital Requirements

- Attend Hospital volunteer orientation
- Background check
- Fingerprints
- Obtain badge
- TB test
- Child Life orientation

For more information on the Child Life Practicum, please contact...

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(505) 272-2671

Child Life Practicum Application

Application Date _____ Applying for fall semester 20__ Spring semester 20__

Name _____ Phone number _____

Email Address _____

Current Address _____

University/College Affiliation _____

Year in school _____

Major _____ Minor _____

Anticipated Date of Graduation _____ Current GPA _____

Field placement supervisor _____ email address _____

Please list all courses related to Human Development/Child Life, etc

Course Name	Grade Earned	Course #

Experience With Children (Please be specific institution, age of children, interactions etc.)

Availability- Please list the Hours you are available each day. Time Slots must be 2.5 to 3 hours.

Day	Time Available 9am-4:30pm For Outpatient and FST	Additional Time Available for Inpatient Therapeutic Rec
Monday		
Tuesday		Until 8:30 pm
Wednesday		
Thursday		Until 8:30 pm
Friday		
Saturday	Closed	11-3
Sunday	Closed	11-3

References- Please provide us with two references. One may be personal and the other must be from a University or college personnel.

Name _____

Relation _____ Years Known _____

Phone number _____

Name _____

Relation _____ Years Known _____

Phone number _____

COMMITMENT

By signing below I understand that the practicum experience requires a total of 120 hours 10-12 hours per week. If I am unavailable I must call my immediate supervisor. I further understand that if I do not keep my commitment for my practicum for any reason I will not be eligible to receive credit or letters of recommendation based upon the practicum experience. I also certify that the responses given on this application are true to the best of my knowledge.

Name

Date

Witness

Dear Child Life Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in our Practicum program. We are pleased to send you an application packet. This packet includes a description of our program, an application and information about Child Life Department at UNMH Children's Hospital.

We offer a practicum two times a year Fall and Spring semesters. The program requires a commitment of 120 hours over the course of a 12-week period in which you will be able to get an overview of all the components of the Child Life Department at UNMH. You will see Outpatient, Inpatient and the Therapeutic Recreation Programs. You will have opportunities to develop communication skills with children/families in the healthcare setting, as well as other health care professionals, recognize and understand children's reactions to stress, illness and pain, observe medical play and preparation for procedures, observe coping and distraction techniques and much more.

Qualified applicants will be contacted by telephone and an interview will be set up.

Thank you for your interest in our program.

Sincerely,

Jamie Shields
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(505) 272-2671