



Thank you for your interest in the Student Practicum Program with the Child and Adolescent Life Program at Duke Children's Hospital. Our internship program is offered three times a year: January – April; May – August; September – December.

**To be qualified for the practicum position, students must be affiliated with an academic institution for the duration of their practicum; be enrolled in or having already completed one class taught by a Child Life Specialist; be enrolled in or having already completed two additional classes that would meet the Child Life Council's recommended curriculum requirements; have documentation for at least 25 hours of volunteer experiences with medical fragile children; and have a cumulative 3.2 grade point average or higher.**

Enclosed you will find a description of our practicum program, application materials, and a brief application form. Your application packet must be postmarked by the following dates:

March 1 (Summer Session)

June 1 (Fall Session)

October 1 (Spring Session)

**A completed application includes:**

1. The completed application form.
2. A 200 – 500 word essay describing your philosophy of Child Life, the strengths you will bring to a practicum, areas in which you would like more growth and how you envision a practicum experience to contribute to your academic and professional goals.
3. Two sealed and signed letters of recommendation (preferably one from someone who knows your academic qualifications and one from someone who has supervised or observed you in a field experience).
4. A copy of your resume, listing your education and field experience to date.
5. A certified, sealed copy of your transcript.
6. A cover letter from your academic advisor that clearly states what academic credit you will receive (if any) and any specific academic requirements you will need to accomplish during this experience.

It is the applicant's responsibility to solicit the recommendations and official transcript. Upon receipt and review of the completed application, the Internship Coordinator will be in contact with the applicant. On-site personal interviews will be conducted following the application review process. Only completed applications with required documentation enclosed in the same packet will be considered for review.

Please return your completed materials to:

**Student Practicum Coordinator  
Child and Adolescent Life Program  
Duke University Medical Center  
Box 3417  
Durham, NC 27710**

Please do not hesitate to call (919) 668-4205 should you have any questions regarding the practicum.

Sincerely,  
Robin Hales, CCLS  
Student Practicum Program Coordinator

## **DUKE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL**

Child and Adolescent Life Program

Student Practicum Program

The Child and Adolescent Life Program at Duke Children's Hospital was established in 1969. Since then, Child Life Specialists have been working as part of the interdisciplinary health care team collaborating with nurses, doctors, social workers, school teachers, respiratory therapists, physical and occupational therapists, dieticians, chaplains and other technicians providing comprehensive quality patient care.

It is the mission of the Child and Adolescent Life Program to provide all pediatric patients and their families, both inpatient and outpatient, access to Child Life services. We believe all children have the right to understand what is happening to them, be supported by their caregivers and staff, and have opportunities for play and mastery especially in new or unfamiliar medical environments. As child life specialists, we are trained in helping children and their families overcome challenging medical events while promoting effective coping through play, preparation, education, and self-expressive activities. The Duke Child and Adolescent Life Program also provides procedural and emotional support for families and encourage opportunities for optimal development of children facing a broad range of challenging experiences.

The Duke Child Life staff consists of nine full-time and three part-time specialists with Bachelor and Master degrees in a variety of fields including Child Life, Psychology, Education, Child Development, Recreation Administration, Counseling, Psychobiology and Social Work. Child Life services are currently provided in nine areas including: 5100 Inpatient Unit (Allergy/Immunology, Infections Disease, Rheumatology, Endocrinology, Neurology, Plastics and General Pediatric Medicine); Inpatient Hematology/Oncology; 5200 Inpatient Unit (Pediatric Bone Marrow and Stem Cell Transplant Unit); 5300 Inpatient Unit (Pulmonary, Critical Care Medicine, Urology, Orthopedics, Neurosurgery and Gastroenterology); Inpatient Cardiology/PCICU (Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit); PICU (General Pediatric Intensive Care Unit); Pediatric Specialty Clinics (Outpatient clinics serving 26 subspecialties); Pre-operative Screening Unit; and Pediatric Hematology/Oncology and Brain Tumor clinic.

Child Life Specialists strive to meet the psychosocial and emotional needs of pediatric patients and their families helping the child cope constructively with the stress and anxiety experienced in the health care environment. Specialists also promote the pediatric patient's normal growth and development before, during and after hospitalization or outpatient clinic visits. These primary goals are achieved in a variety of ways including, but not limited to: providing developmentally appropriate therapeutic play opportunities both in the group setting in the playroom and on an individual basis; psychologically and emotionally preparing children and families for medical/surgical and diagnostic procedures; advocating for the needs of children and their families in the health care setting, providing emotional support to patients, parents and siblings, and helping to maintain a child and family friendly environment.

DUKE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL  
Child and Adolescent Life  
Practicum Program

**Student Education Program Goals and Objectives**

The practicum is an introduction to the hospital environment as well as first-hand observations of Child Life support, assessments, and other interventions at work. During the practicum experience we expect students to:

- Observe the role of the Child Life Specialist in various settings
- Develop a personal comfort level and confidence to function in the hospital environment
- Observe and implement group and individual activities for children birth-18 years
- Observe and assist with medical play for individuals and groups of children
- Provide emotional support for patients and families
- Expand your knowledge of medical terminology
- Observe medical procedures when appropriate
- Observe and assist with pre-procedural/preoperative preparation
- Observe interdisciplinary team meetings
- Observe and assist with supervision of volunteers
- Assist in playroom set-up, maintenance and clean up
- Assist in the facilitation of special events, entertainers, visitors
- Attend and participate in weekly student seminars by certified Child Life Specialists

If you have any other questions regarding the Duke Practicum program, please contact:

(919) 668-4205.

Robin Hales, CCLS

[robin.hales@duke.edu](mailto:robin.hales@duke.edu)

**DUKE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL**  
Child and Adolescent Life Program  
PRACTICUM APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Current Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Current Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

University or College \_\_\_\_\_

Major \_\_\_\_\_

Degree sought      BS/BA                      MS/MA                      (circle one)

Expected Graduation Date \_\_\_\_\_

Academic/Internship Advisor \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Contact name, address and telephone # for affiliation agreement \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Which Internship are you applying for?

Spring  
(January – April)

Summer  
(May – August)

Fall  
(September – December)

For more information contact:  
**Robin Hales, CCLS, Student Practicum Coordinator**