Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital
Practicum Application Process

Individuals applying for the practicum must compile the following items to be reviewed by the Child Life Department. All required items should be submitted as either Microsoft Word or PDF attachments via email to: ChildLifeStudents@memorialhermann.org. Any other formatting will make the application incomplete and will not be considered. Paper applications will not be considered. Late submissions will not be considered.

Applicants must submit the following documentation by the deadline:

A. **ONE** email, with subject title “Applicant Name Practicum Application” including the following items:
   - Completed Texas Association of Child Life Professional (TACLP) application*
   - Copy of current academic transcript(s) indicating cumulative and major GPA*
   - Professional résumé outlining academic and clinical experiences and other qualifications
   
   *Course In-Progress forms will not be accepted.*

B. Two TACLP Child Life Practicum Reference Forms: One must be from an academic source and one from someone who has directly observed and can assess your work with children, parents, and professionals. Both reference forms should be from non-family members. Forms should be emailed directly from referrer with subject title “Applicant Name Reference Form”.

C. If selected, you will need to provide the following pieces of information:
   - Proof of health insurance
   - CPR Certification
   - Personal liability and malpractice insurance
   - Proof of negative TB test (read within one year of internship start date) or current chest x-ray
   - Up to date vaccine record
   - Official academic transcript

Refer to [main page](#) for application due dates. After the deadline for application passes, all completed applications will be reviewed by the Child Life Practicum Coordinators. Submitting a completed application does not guarantee an interview or acceptance. The most qualified applicants will be offered interviews.
About Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital:

When families come to Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital, they expect to find the technological advances and healing expertise of a university-affiliated academic hospital. What continues to surprise them is the special compassion and focus on families that distinguishes us as one of the finest hospitals in the nation.

Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital has been serving the community for over 40+ years and is the primary teaching hospital for the pediatrics and obstetrics/gynecology programs at the John P. and Kathrine G. McGovern Medical School at UTHouston. Our team of doctors, nurses, therapists and other allied healthcare professionals are focused on the specialized needs of women and children with an emphasis on quality, customer service and leading-edge research.

A facility expansion in 2008 increased our capacity to 240 beds for pediatric and neonatal care, and our Women’s Center operates an additional 76 beds. The facility offers colorful decor, special play areas for children and a reassuring staff, trained to help take the focus off of pain and illness. Education and support services for families are also available, as are services for international patients.

The Emergency Center at Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital in the Texas Medical Center is equipped to meet the needs of patients with conditions ranging from minor injuries and illnesses to major trauma. The Center is a certified Level I pediatric trauma center, providing the highest level of trauma care available. As one of the only Level I pediatric trauma centers caring for children in the Texas Gulf Coast region, Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital provides 24-hour-a-day care to over 19,000 children in emergency situations each year.

One of 12 hospitals in the Memorial Hermann Health System, our reach extends throughout the greater Houston area. Patients are able to obtain specialized children’s healthcare and high-risk pregnancy services at Memorial Hermann hospitals in the suburban locations as well as higher level care at our teaching hospital, Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital, in the Texas Medical Center.

Child Life and Expressive Therapies Department Overview:

The Child Life and Expressive Therapies Department has been a valued part of the children’s hospital for the past 40+ years. There are 14 Certified Child Life Specialists, 2 Music Therapists, 2 Art Therapists, 1 Facility Dog, Clinical Coordinator, and Child Life Director. We also have Child Life Specialists at 5 of our Memorial Hermann Hospitals in the community: MH Southeast, MH Southwest, MH Memorial City, MH Sugarland, and MH The Woodlands.
Practicum Overview:

The practicum program at Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital is designed to provide students with a variety of opportunities. Under the supervision of a Certified Child Life Specialist, practicum students learn the function of a child life specialist and how they provide a variety of services to patients and families. Throughout the practicum, students can expect to have exposure to multiple diagnoses, integration within the interdisciplinary team, educational sessions, and ongoing supervision.

We offer one practicum opportunity in the summer. The practicum is a part time experience totaling approximately 150 hours. The practicum student will be required to work the same schedule as their unit preceptor. Submitting a completed application does not guarantee an interview or acceptance. Each application will be reviewed to determine if the applicant meets all the requirements. The most qualified applicants will be extended the opportunity for an interview. At this time, we currently accept affiliated and non-affiliated students. **An on-site interview is required for all applicants that live within a 300 mile radius.**

Child Life Practicum Program Prerequisites:

1. A cumulative GPA of 3.0 within your major
2. Sophomore level in college or beyond
3. Completion of 3 required university courses (Play, Child Development, Child Life) as stated on TACL application
4. A minimum of 100 hours of field work of working directly with well children.

Recommended Readings Prior to the Start of Practicum:

- Psychosocial Care of Children in Hospitals: A Clinical Practice Manual
  *By: L. Gaynard, et al.*

- Child Life in Hospitals: Theory and Practice
  *By: Thompson and Stanford.*

- The Handbook of Child Life: A Guide for Pediatric Psychosocial Care
  *Edited by: Richard H. Thompson, Ph.D.*

- Meeting Children’s Psychosocial Needs Across the Health-Care Continuum
  *By: J. Rollings, et al.*
Goals & Objectives for Practicum:

1. The Child Life Student will understand the workings of the Child Life Department within Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital.
2. The student will begin to develop a working knowledge of hospitalization and its impact on the emotional, developmental and psychosocial needs of the child and family.
3. The student will develop a basic understanding of how a Child Life Specialist assesses and prioritizes the needs of the hospitalized patient and family and utilizes that information to develop a plan of care.
4. The student will observe the skills the Child Life Specialist utilizes in preparing children and their families for surgical, medical, and radiological events.
5. The student will increase their knowledge regarding relevant medical terminology, diagnoses and procedures.
6. The student will develop an understanding of the role of a Child Life Specialist within the inter-disciplinary healthcare team.
7. The student will develop communication skills with patients/families and other health care professionals.

Student Requirements During the 8-week Practicum:

1. Develop a list of personal goals you wish to accomplish during your practicum.
2. Read required manuals.
3. Keep a daily log of time and attendance.
5. Complete assigned readings/assignments on time.
6. Attend weekly supervisory sessions with practicum supervisors.
7. Attend educational sessions on a variety of topics related to the child life profession.
8. Observe various multidisciplinary rounds and other meetings.
9. Present a diagnosis education to Child Life staff.
11. Observe interventions in preparation, procedural support, and medical play directed by a Certified Child Life Specialist.
12. Plan, implement, and evaluate therapeutic activities.
Placement Descriptions/ Rotations (Placements are subject to availability):

**Emergency Center**
The Pediatric Emergency Center is an accredited Level 1 Trauma Center located on the 1st floor in the Hermann Pavilion. The center provides emergency care to the children of Houston, Harris County, and the surrounding areas. In addition, it works closely with the Life Flight program, of which 1 of every 4 flights is for a child. Child Life services are provided to the pediatric patients, siblings, their families, and friends. Services include providing developmentally appropriate activities at the bedside, preparing children for a variety of procedures, and providing essential support that assists the child and family in coping with the emergency room experience.

**Children’s Center (General Pediatrics)**
The Children’s Center is a 24-bed unit and is located on the 10th floor of the Children’s Hospital. It is set up to treat a wide range of diagnostic patient groups. These include but are not limited to general medicine, orthopedic, neurology, respiratory, gastrointestinal, and post-surgery. Incorporated within the Children’s Center is a 6-bed Epilepsy Monitoring Unit. The age range extends from newborn to adolescence. Child Life services are provided at the bedside and in the two activity rooms. A playroom, adolescent room, library, and solarium play area are provided for all patients and families admitted to this floor.

**Children’s Special Care (Intermediate Care Unit)**
The CSC is a 32-bed unit and is located on the 9th and 10th floors of the Children’s Hospital. The diagnostic patient groups include but are not limited to post-ICU admissions, post kidney or liver transplant, immuno-suppressed patients, and those requiring a higher level of nursing care. The age range extends from newborn to adolescence. Child Life services are provided at the bedside and in the playroom. The playroom located on the 9th floor is available for both patients and their families.

**Pediatric Intensive Care**
The PICU is a 32-bed unit and is located on the 9th floor of the Children’s Hospital. The diagnostic patient groups include but are not limited to trauma, immediate post-transplant, some post-surgical patients, and some patients requiring invasive monitoring. The age range extends from newborn to adolescence. Child Life services are primarily provided at the bedside. Many Child Life interventions are focused on parent and sibling needs. Parent sleep rooms are available to parents who need a place to rest. Families have access to the playroom and adolescent room on this floor.

**Neonatal Intensive Care/ Neonatal Special Care Units**
The NICU (level 4) is a 118-bed unit and the NSCU (level 2) is a 32 bed unit located on the 7th and 8th floors of the Children’s Hospital. Child Life services are provided at the bedside with an emphasis on developmental needs. Services are also available to parents and siblings. Parent sleep rooms are available to parents who need a place to rest. Families have access to the playrooms on the pediatric floors.
Roger and Debbie Clemens Pediatric Wing (Inpatient Surgical Unit)
The RCW is a 30 bed unit located to the 8th floor. This unit consists mostly of pre and post-surgical patients as well as some trauma patients. Child Life interventions include pre/post-surgery preparations, procedural support, and normalization throughout their recovery. The playroom is divided into 2 play areas for infant/toddler and school-age/adolescents.

Children’s Dialysis Unit
The Children's Dialysis Unit is a 7-bed facility located on the 9th floor of the Children's Hospital. The patients served in this unit can be either at an acute, chronic, or end stage of their renal disease. It provides both outpatient and in-patient hemo-dialysis treatments, which last from 3-4 hours and 3-4 times a week. In addition, it provides training for families who elect to move to home peritoneal dialysis. Child Life services are provided at the bedside and are made available to the families. Families have access to the playrooms on the pediatric floors.

Children’s Day Surgery, Infusion, & Imaging
The Children’s Day Surgery Unit comprises up to 8 pre-op rooms and 12 recovery rooms. It is located on the 2nd floor of the Hermann Pavilion. Approximately 15 to 30 children are seen daily. Imaging is located on the ground floor of the Children’s Hospital. The patient population in these areas includes: same-day surgery patients, children that will be admitted after surgery, inpatients from the different pediatric floors scheduled for surgery, and a variety of outpatient radiological procedures and infusions. Child Life services include pre and post-op teaching, distraction, and developmentally appropriate activities.

Parking:
Parking costs are the responsibility of the intern and the arrangements can be made the first day of the internship. There are low cost parking options available. https://www.tmc.edu/contact/parking/

Living Arrangements:
Living arrangements are the responsibility of the student.

Contact Information:
If you would like any other information regarding our practicum program please contact the practicum coordinators at:

ChildLifeStudents@memorialhermann.org