

Child Family Life Practicum Application

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the Child Family Life Practicum at the M Health Fairview Masonic Children's Hospital. This program is highly recommended for individuals who are considering a career as a Child Life Specialist. We are excited to offer this program at our large, leading children's hospital.

This program is intended to introduce individuals to the field of Child Life, as well as provide experiences in a healthcare setting with children, adolescents, and their families. You will be supervised by a Certified Child Life Specialist as you observe interactions with patients and families and learn about the Child Life profession.

Pre-requisites include:

- Completion of some secondary education courses in related field (human development, family studies, education, etc.)
- Completion of a Child Life course taught by a Certified Child Life Specialist
- Comfortable working with children and families in hospital setting
- Ability to be physically active (ie: standing and walking for long periods of time)
- Ability to mentally and verbally process experiences seen with child life specialist
- Ability to complete 100 observation hours within a 10-week timeframe
- Ability to complete Child-Family Life Volunteer project hours outside of practicum hours for hands on learning within the department.

If selected, practicum students will also need to complete training modules, provide proof of vaccinations (including COVID and influenza), complete a TB test, and pass a criminal background check.

Application submission deadlines are as follows:

Practicum session	Application deadline
Fall	First Friday in May
Winter/Spring	First Friday in October

Due to the expectation that we provide students with a quality supervision and education experience, currently, we are only able to accept one practicum student a session. Application is not a guarantee of acceptance.

If you have questions, please email Kristen.Weston@fairview.org or call Child Family Life at (612)273-3109.

Thank you,

Kristen Weston, CCLS
Child-Family Life Department
M Health Fairview Masonic Children's Hospital

Practicum Job Description

This practicum is intended to provide an observational opportunity to those interested in the child life profession. This practicum offers a minimum of 100 hours of supervision designed to prepare the participant for a more internship experience in child life or related field.

The participant will have opportunities to observe child life interactions in at least 2 different patient care areas. We hope to enhance the understanding of child development and effects the hospital experience can have on children as well as the value of play. The participant will gain a better understanding of the role of a child life specialist in a healthcare team. Opportunities to observe medical play, preparation and procedural support will be provided by various child life staff.

The participants will also have the opportunity to create medical play materials and developmentally appropriate bedside or playroom activity kits, as well as aid the Child Family Life Department with organizational tasks. By doing this, the participant will gain valuable insight to the inner workings of a Child Life Department, learn how to manage materials and resources, and explore the work involved in supporting medical play.

Participant Expectations

Participant will be required to complete daily journal entries, written assignments, weekly meetings, complete hands on CFL Volunteer hours, and attend rounds. We expect participants to be open with written and verbally processing of their experiences. Participants may find the practicum physically demanding. Participants will experience periods of time of standing and walking. Details will be provided in orientation of practicum site. Consistent attendance and clear communication with the child life team is expected.

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Personal Information

Name _____

Address _____

Phone number _____ Email _____

Education

College/University _____

Major/Degree _____ Date of Graduation _____

Experience - Please tell us about any experience you have had interacting with children and their families

Name of Site and Location _____ Dates _____

Total Hours _____

Description of Experience

Name of Site and Location _____ Dates _____

Total Hours _____

Description of Experience

Name of Site and Location _____ Dates _____

Total Hours _____

Description of Experience

Essay Questions - Please provide a response to the following questions with your completed application. 100 words maximum per essay question.

1. How did you learn about the Child Life profession and what about it appeals to you?
2. Why are you interested in the Child Family Life practicum at Masonic Children's Hospital?
3. What does the term, Patient Family Centered Care, mean to you?
4. What do you hope to gain from your Child Life practicum?

By signing, I indicate I understand the practicum requirements and if my application packet is incomplete, I will not be considered for the practicum program at the M Health Fairview Masonic Children's Hospital.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Application Check List:

____ Completed Application including signature

____ Completed Essay Questions

____ Verification of Child Life course (transcript, form from your teacher, etc.)

____ Two Letters of Reference from non-relatives

____ One page Resume

Follow all instructions. Late, incomplete, or inaccurate applications will not be considered.

Mail to:

University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital
Attn: Kristen Weston, Child Family Life Department
2450 Riverside Ave. S.
East Bldg, MB #210B
Minneapolis, MN 55454