

# CHILD LIFE PRACTICUM

For  
Arnold Palmer Medical Center  
Orlando, Florida

The Child Life practicum at Arnold Palmer Medical Center is offered to undergraduate students who are interested in becoming more familiar with the Child Life profession. It is an opportunity for the students to observe the Child Life Specialist at work and to appreciate how growth and development applies to the provisions of therapeutic interventions for the hospitalized child. This experience is 150 hours in length and allows the student to get an overview of Child Life practice in several different types of hospital units under the supervision of a Certified Child Life Specialist (CCLS). The practicum student is expected to bring a minimum of 50 documented hours of relevant experience with children to the practicum so as to better be able to understand the unique needs of the hospitalized child in contrast to children in other settings.

In accordance with *The Official Documents of the Child Life Council*, the goals of the practicum include:

- Familiarization with the Child Life profession
- Observation of clinical interventions by the CCLS with some limited degree of student participation as assessed appropriate by your preceptor;
- Interaction with patients and families; and
- Integration into daily playroom and bedside recreational and divisional activities.

Students should possess certain qualities such as a sincere interest in children and adolescents and be able to demonstrate flexibility, enthusiasm and the ability to get along well with others. A willingness to learn from every experience and situation is imperative to the success of this student experience. Throughout the practicum, students will receive feedback from the staff that will enhance the student experience and better equip them as they make vocational decisions regarding Child Life as their chosen profession.

Basic Requirements:

- Completion of Child Life class (university Child Life course taught by CCLS)
- Previous experience with children (preferably in the hospital under a CCLS), with a minimum of 50 documented hours
- Currently a junior or senior in college (preferably must have completed your junior year)
- GPA of 3.0 or higher

\*Revised April 2015

## GUIDELINES AND EXPECTATIONS

Students are an important asset to the Child Life Program at Arnold Palmer Medical Center (APMC). The process of working with students, which includes orientation, observation, supervision and constructive feedback, extends and enriches the staff. The following guidelines are designed to familiarize students with our expectations, thereby, laying the foundation for a mutually positive experience.

During the practicum, students conduct themselves as professionals. Being at work on time is essential to meeting the requirements of the practicum and gaining full benefit from the experience. Any emergency or illness, which prevents a student from coming to the hospital when expected, must be reported to the supervisor at the earliest possible time.

Confidentiality and protection of patient privacy, which are governed by HIPAA, are essential aspects of professional conduct and are required of all students and staff. Information that is shared between health care professionals is meant for the provision of quality care; however, this information must **NEVER** go beyond this arena. Those students participating in a health care experience at APMC are privy to this sensitive data so they can function in their roles. Such information is considered personal and confidential therefore discretion must be exercised at all times.

The entry portal for Child Life practicum students is through the Volunteer Services Department at APMC. Requirements include provision of documentation of up-to-date immunizations, consent to conduct a criminal background check, and consent to test for TB (TST) and drug screening. The student will complete and submit the adult volunteer application as well as the Child Life practicum experience application. The volunteer application can be found online ([www.orlandohealth.com/volunteer](http://www.orlandohealth.com/volunteer)); click on APH, and then click on adult volunteer application. Print the application and mail or fax to APMC Volunteer Services. When the screening process is successfully completed, students will attend a volunteer services orientation (orientation is usually scheduled for the last Thursday night of each month; ***always check to verify schedule***) which takes place at the hospital. Due to the time required to complete the screening and the orientation, the applications to Child Life and Volunteer Services must be submitted at least four months prior to the start of the practicum experience. After orientation, the practicum experience will begin with the Child Life team.

During the practicum, students will wear a shirt identifying them as a volunteer while they are engaged in this learning experience. The student will adhere to the hospital and volunteer dress code as explained in the volunteer services orientation. Students are expected to dress comfortably to work with children, yet also demonstrate a professional appearance. Denim, sleeveless tops, capri pants and sandals are NOT acceptable in a health care facility and do not meet our hospital dress code requirements. It is best to wear apparel that is easily laundered after each wearing. The hospital/volunteer dress code is strictly enforced.

In order to derive the greatest benefit from this experience, the applicant is strongly encouraged to have either a strong academic background in child growth and development or to have completed a Child Life course at the university level. It would also be helpful to review information regarding the profession on the Child Life website, [www.childlife.org](http://www.childlife.org). This will give the student a base line by which to appreciate and understand some of the activities and experiences in which they will participate.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

The following documents must be completed and mailed together before application is considered.

- Completed application\*
- Letter verifying completion of Child Life course, signed by CCLS who taught the course
- Current resume
- Transcript (unofficial accepted) for review. If accepted, official transcript must be provided
- Three professional recommendations, preferably one from a practicing CCLS

\* Please check for grammar and spelling before you turn in this application.

Mail completed documents to the following address by the application deadline:

Child Life, Music & the Arts  
Attn: Practicum Coordinator  
Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children, MP 309  
92 West Miller St. MP-309  
Orlando, FL 32806

<b>Desired Practicum Semester</b>	<b>Application Deadline</b>	<b>Interview Period</b>	<b>Practicum Timeframe</b>
Spring	October 1 <sup>st</sup>	October-November	January-March
Summer	February 1 <sup>st</sup>	February-March	May-July
Fall	June 1 <sup>st</sup>	June-July	September-November

\*Revised April 2015

**CHILD LIFE PRACTICUM APPLICATION**  
For  
**ARNOLD PALMER MEDICAL CENTER**

**STUDENT INFORMATION:**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY/STATE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

**EMERGENCY CONTACT:**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

RELATIONSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

**UNIVERSITY INFORMATION:**

UNIVERSITY \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PRESENT MAJOR \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF GRADUATION \_\_\_\_\_

CUMULATIVE GPA \_\_\_\_\_ GPA IN MAJOR \_\_\_\_\_

SUPERVISORY PROFESSOR OR ADVISOR \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER (a daytime number) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PRESENT LEVEL (check one)

\_\_\_\_\_ Undergraduate junior    \_\_\_\_\_ Undergraduate senior    \_\_\_\_\_ Graduate student

What days and times are you available to fulfill your practicum hours?

What other commitments will you have during your practicum?

List coursework relevant to Child Life practice (completed or in process of completion)

Course Title	Grade
1. _____	
2. _____	
3. _____	
4. _____	
5. _____	
6. _____	
7. _____	
8. _____	
9. _____	
10. _____	

**Experience with Children in Healthcare and Non-Healthcare Settings:**

INSTITUTION \_\_\_\_\_ DATES \_\_\_\_\_

POSITION TITLE \_\_\_\_\_ HOURS COMPLETED \_\_\_\_\_

RESPONSIBILITIES \_\_\_\_\_

INSTITUTION \_\_\_\_\_ DATES \_\_\_\_\_

POSITION TITLE \_\_\_\_\_ HOURS COMPLETED \_\_\_\_\_

RESPONSIBILITIES \_\_\_\_\_

INSTITUTION \_\_\_\_\_ DATES \_\_\_\_\_

POSITION TITLE \_\_\_\_\_ HOURS COMPLETED \_\_\_\_\_

RESPONSIBILITIES \_\_\_\_\_

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INSTITUTION \_\_\_\_\_ DATES \_\_\_\_\_

POSITION TITLE \_\_\_\_\_ HOURS COMPLETED \_\_\_\_\_

RESPONSIBILITIES \_\_\_\_\_

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**Please answer the following questions. You may type them on a separate sheet of paper.**

Why are you pursuing a career in Child Life or interested in this profession?

Why did you apply to Arnold Palmer Medical Center as the site for your practicum experience?

Identify two specific goals regarding what you want to accomplish during your practicum experience?

MAIL TO: Arnold Palmer Medical Center  
Child Life Program MP #309  
Attn: Practicum Coordinator  
92 West Miller Street  
Orlando, FL. 32806

For further information call 321-841-1479