



Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital **Child Life Internship Application Process**

Individuals applying for the internship must compile the following items to be reviewed by the Child Life and Expressive Therapies 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 for review. Paper applications will not be considered. Late submissions will not be considered.

Applicants must submit the following by the deadline:

- A. **ONE** email with the subject title “*Applicant Name* Internship Application” including the following attachments:
- Completed Association of Child Life Professionals (ACLP) common child life application - typed
 - All items referenced in ACLP Common Application checklist review must be included
 - Copy of current transcript(s) from university indicating cumulative GPA. If offered placement within the Child Life Internship Program, an official transcript may be required.
 - Eligibility Assessment Form completed by the ACLP
 - Course-in-progress forms will be accepted if course is 50% completed and in good standing
 - Practicum-in-progress forms will be accepted if the student has completed a minimum of 100 hours.
- B. Two ACLP common recommendation forms: One must be from a practicum supervisor/coordinator and one from a faculty supervisor, employer, or advisor who has directly observed and can assess your work with children, parents, and professionals. Both recommendations should be from non-family members. Forms should be emailed directly from the recommender with the subject title “*Applicant Name* Recommendation Form” to ChildLifeStudents@memorialhermann.org.
- 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
 - Proof of flu shot (hospital is able to provide flu shot free of charge for selected interns)

Up to date vaccine record

Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital follows deadlines set by the Association of Child Life Professionals.

Please refer to deadline dates which can be found at:

<http://www.childlife.org/certification/students/internship-deadlines>

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 offered interviews. Phone or video interviews are offered for those outside a 300-mile radius. Selected students will be required to work the schedule of their supervisor.

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 UTHealth. 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 16 child life specialists, 2 music therapists, 2 art therapists, 1 facility dog, clinical coordinator, and director.

Internship Overview:

The internship 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 (CCLS), interns learn to function as a child life specialist and to provide a variety of services to patients and families. Throughout the internship, students can expect to have exposure to multiple diagnoses, integration within the interdisciplinary team, educational sessions, and ongoing supervision.

The internship is a full time 40-hour work week for 16 weeks for a total of 640 hours. The internship semester consists of orientation, an 8-week placement and a 6-week placement in either one of our inpatient or outpatient units. The intern will be required to work the same schedule as their unit supervisor.

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. We currently accept affiliated and non-affiliated students. The most qualified applicants will be extended the opportunity for an interview.

**** At this time, all interviews are being conducted virtually ****

Child Life Internship Program Prerequisites:

1. A cumulative GPA of 3.0 within your major
2. Completed the academic course work portion of the Association of Child Life Professionals (ACLP) eligibility assessment form
 - Reminder: course-in-progress forms will be accepted if course is 50% completed and in good standing
3. Minimum 100 hours of a child life practicum in an established child life program
 - Reminder: 100 child life practicum hours must be completed upon submission of application
4. Minimum 100 hours of experience with well infants, children, youth and/or families

Required Reading Prior to the Start of Internship:

Psychosocial Care of Children in Hospitals: A Clinical Practice Manual
By: L. Gaynard, et al. (1990)

Child Life in Hospitals: Theory and Practice
By: Thompson and Stanford. (1981)

The Handbook of Child Life: A Guide for Pediatric Psychosocial Care
Edited by: Richard H. Thompson, Ph.D. (2009)

Meeting Children's Psychosocial Needs Across the Health-Care
Continuum
By: J. Rollings, et al. (2005)

Goals & Objective for Internship:

The child life intern will:

1. Understand the workings of the Child Life and Expressive Therapies Department within this facility.
2. Demonstrate understanding of hospitalization and its impact on the emotional, developmental and psychosocial needs of the child and family.
3. Assess and prioritize the needs of the hospitalized patient and family.
4. Develop, plan, implement and evaluate the child life plan-of-care based on their overall assessment.
5. Provide individual and group therapeutic interventions to promote coping and mastery of hospital experience
6. Recognize relevant medical terminology, diagnoses and procedures.
7. Integrate self as part of the interdisciplinary healthcare team.
8. Demonstrate the ability to advocate for the role of child life.
9. Supervise and provide feedback to unit volunteers.
10. Demonstrate the ability to translate developmental theories and incorporate them in play.
11. Apply professional standards of practice.

Intern Requirements during the 16-week internship:

1. Create weekly and overall goals
2. Begin in observation role and work towards providing services independently
3. Keep a daily log of time and attendance
4. Maintain a reflective weekly journal
5. Complete assigned readings/assignments on time

6. Complete daily assessments and plans of care
7. Attend weekly supervisory sessions with clinical rotation supervisor and weekly coordinator meetings
8. Participate in educational sessions, multidisciplinary meetings, and other required meetings
9. Plan and implement play activities for individuals and groups
10. Present one case study for each rotation/placement
11. Complete and present one child life related project
12. Evaluate self, clinical rotation supervisors, clinical internship coordinators and the overall internship experience
13. Complete site visits to area hospital child life programs or other facilities that provide services to children and families
14. Document assessments and interventions in a timely manner
15. Facilitate procedural preparation and support, education, and therapeutic play
16. Plan, facilitate and evaluate family and community outreach events
17. Create an educational flyer for multidisciplinary staff

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 Sarofim 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, gastro-intestinal, 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, 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, cardiovascular and neuro 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 & Heart Center 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. Ronald McDonald 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. Ronald McDonald 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 accessible 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 intern.

Contact Information:

If you would like any other information regarding our internship program, please contact the internship coordinators at:

ChildLifeStudents@memorialhermann.org