



## **Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital Child Life Practicum Application Process**

Individuals applying for the practicum 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](mailto: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 be accepted if course is 50% completed and in good standing*
- 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 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 UT Health. 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.

## **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.

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 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. The most qualified applicants will be extended the opportunity for an interview. At this time, we currently accept affiliated and non-affiliated students.

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

## **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 TACLP 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. Understand the workings of the Child Life and Expressive Therapies Department within Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital.
2. Increase knowledge of evidence-based practice in regards to developmentally-appropriate interventions; such as, but not limited to, therapeutic play, preparation, procedure support and education that impact the emotional, developmental and psychosocial needs of the child and family in a hospital setting.
3. Observe and begin to independently engage in developmentally-appropriate play and supportive interventions with infants, children and youth.
4. Develop a basic understanding of how a child life specialist conducts a child life assessment and utilizes that information to develop a plan of care in efforts to prioritize the needs of hospitalized children and their families.
5. Increase knowledge and apply the use of developmental theory into child life practice.
6. Develop an understanding of the role of a child life specialist within the interdisciplinary healthcare team.
7. Increase knowledge regarding relevant medical terminology, diagnosis and procedures.
8. Develop an initial understanding of how to integrate diversity, equity and inclusion into our child life clinical and professional practice.

## **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.
4. Maintain a weekly journal of experiences.
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.
10. Complete evaluations of rotation supervisors, self-evaluations, and the overall practicum experience.
11. Observe interventions in preparation, procedural support, and medical play directed by a 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

### **Children's Center (General Pediatrics)**

The Children's Center is a 24-bed unit and is located on the 10<sup>th</sup> 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. 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 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> 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. The playroom located on the 9<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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. 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 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> floors of the Children's Hospital. 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 8<sup>th</sup> floor. This unit consists mostly of pre and post-surgical patients as well as some trauma patients. 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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. Families have access to the playrooms on the pediatric floors.

**Children's Day Surgery, Infusion, & Imaging**

The Children's Day Surgery Unit comprises 20 pre-op rooms and 12 recovery rooms. It is located in the Jones 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.

**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](mailto:ChildLifeStudents@memorialhermann.org)