



Child Life Internship

The comprehensive child life internship at The Children's Hospital at OU Medical Center is offered twice a year (spring and fall semesters). The internship is a 640 hour (16 week) experience supervised by Certified Child Life Specialists qualified under the guidelines set forth by the Association of Child Life Professionals.

The internship schedule is as follows:

- Week 1: General orientation to the hospital and child life department
- Weeks 2-7: Unit Rotation 1
- Week 8-9: Choice week: intern decides what other units they would like to observe
- Weeks 10-15: Unit Rotation 2
- Week 16: Final week, wrap up assignments, continue clinical work

Units available for child life rotations:

- General Medicine
- Hematology/Oncology
- Pediatric Intensive Care
- Outpatient Surgery
- Surgical Unit
- Radiology
- Dialysis
- Emergency Department
- Pediatric Epilepsy Monitoring Unit
- Adolescent Medicine/Disordered Eating Unit

There *may* also be some observation opportunities available in Neonatal Intensive Care and Adult Services.

Internship rotations will be decided based upon the availability of child life specialists as well as the interest areas of the intern.

Child Life Mission Statement:

The Child Life Department advocates for and assists in meeting the psychosocial needs of patients and their families. By providing developmental support, preparation for medical events and maintaining a normalized environment; the department strives to minimize hospital induced stress, maximize positive coping and promote a family centered culture throughout OU Medical Center.

Internship Assignments/Modules

Weekly Journals

Readings

Play Plans

Interdisciplinary Team Interviews

Developmental Assessments

Chart Notes

Procedure Assessment Worksheets

SBAR Worksheets

Case Study/Presentation

Cover Letter and Resume Review

Mock Internship Interview

Comprehensive Project

Complete additional assignments under child life module curriculum:

- History of child life
- Lifespan Development
- Play
- Medical Play
- Coping with Pain and Distress
- Assessment
- Documentation
- Communication
- Therapeutic Play
- Professional Development
- Psychological Preparation
- Patient and Family Centered Care
- Palliative and End of Life Care
- Administration

Student Role

The child life intern will serve as an integral part of the child life department. Students are responsible for supervised involvement and independent planning and implementation of a developmentally and emotionally supportive psychosocial program for patients and families visiting The Children's Hospital at OU Medical Center. Students will participate in orientation and guidance, direction, and evaluation by child life specialists in order to meet personal and program goals and objectives. Students typically follow the schedule of the current rotation supervisor. Students may be asked to participate in after hours and/or weekend child life services. Students will be evaluated using evaluation tools based upon the Association of Child Life Professionals competencies after each rotation and at the completion of the internship.

Child Life Intern Goals/Objectives:

- 1) apply theoretical knowledge of development
- 2) comfortably navigate the hospital environment and become familiar with the impact of hospitalization on patients and families
- 3) discuss the psychosocial effects of health care on children and families
- 4) identify the meaning of specific medical terminology, diagnoses, and procedures; understand their relationship to the child's and family's level of understanding
- 5) demonstrate entry-level professional skills in the use of play and therapeutic activities; both with in group and individual settings
- 6) effectively provide medical education/psychological preparation to patients and families for specific procedures, medical events, surgery, unit changes and/or discharges
- 7) utilize support techniques during procedures or other stressful medical events with patients and families
- 8) facilitate supportive relationships within the boundaries which define therapeutic relationships
- 9) demonstrate developmental and psychosocial assessment techniques to plan child life interventions
- 10) utilize the tenants of family centered care to assist families to cope with the stress of the health care experience
- 11) demonstrate professional attitudes, growth, maturity, and judgment
- 12) function as an active member of the interdisciplinary team
- 13) develop skills in documentation and education regarding child life services
- 14) identify and utilize appropriate resources within the healthcare setting and within the community
- 15) understand the role of volunteers and demonstrate entry level volunteer orientation and supervision
- 16) gain broad knowledge of the field of child life through readings, in-services, and interactions with child life staff
- 17) communicate skills and learning in an interview process