



The Children's Hospital at Saint Francis Mission Statement

To extend the presence and healing ministry of Christ in all we do.

Hospital Overview

The Children's Hospital at Saint Francis is a 162-bed pediatric hospital. Patients range in age from 0-18 years.

Child Life Overview

The Child Life department was established in 1990 and currently has three playrooms and one teen room. There are two Child Life Specialists on staff.

Practicum Objective

The Children's Hospital at Saint Francis' Child Life department offers a 12-week Child Life Practicum. Students must complete a minimum of 100 hours. This program is designed to meet the individual learning needs and goals of its practicum students. These goals will be met through program objectives such as:

- Become familiar with the child life profession
- Develop communication skills with children/families in the healthcare setting, as well as other healthcare professionals
- Recognize and discuss children's/adolescent's reactions to stress, illness and pain
- Recognize the value of play and psychosocially supportive interventions
- Plan and facilitate a variety of activities for groups of children of diverse ages and capabilities, as well as for individual children or teens and practices these skills in activity centers and at bedside
- Demonstrate knowledge of medical terminology, diagnoses and procedures
- Sets goals for learning and evaluate own performance
- Develop professional attitude, growth, maturity and judgment by functioning as a member of the healthcare team

Expectations

- Written individual goals for practicum experience
- Weekly reflective journal or evaluation of experience; including discussion with site supervisor
- Activity and developmental worksheets

Benefits to Students

- Observation of hospitalized children and adolescents
- Increased comfort with hospital environment
- Increased knowledge of the Child Life profession
- Access to Child Life resources

Make-Up Shifts

If a student is sick, has a family emergency or other scheduling conflict, missed shifts will have to be made up within two weeks. After three absences, termination of the practicum will be discussed.

Qualifications

- *Interpersonal Skills* - Applicants must have well-developed communication skills and be able to build a positive trusting relationship with both children and adults. Adaptability and flexibility are essential qualities needed as well.
- *Experience* - Experience with children in an individual and group basis is preferred; experience with hospitalized children and families is a bonus.

Requirements

All practicum students will be required to complete:

- Practicum student application
- Volunteer application
- TB test
- Criminal background check

Application Process

- Complete application
- Letters of reference (2)
- Resume

All Applications must be received by the application deadline before being considered for a practicum interview.

