



The Child Life Program at Huntsville Hospital for Women & Children

The Child Life Program at Huntsville Hospital for Women & Children was established in July 1983 with funds and volunteers from the Junior League. The program functioned as a play and entertainment program until 1999 when three certified Child Life Specialists were added to the staff: a Coordinator/PICU Child Life Specialist, an Inpatient/Pre-op Child Life Specialist, and an Emergency Department Child Life Specialist.

A description of areas served by the Child Life Program follows:

Inpatient - There are 36 Inpatient Beds on the Pediatric Unit. Diagnoses include: cystic fibrosis, sickle cell anemia, diabetes, sepsis, asthma, trauma, general surgery, orthopedic surgery, seizure disorders, gastrointestinal disorders and ENT surgeries.

There are two activity rooms on the Inpatient Unit: (1) one for younger patients with toys, mats and mirrors for infants, an easel, and a kitchen play area, and (2) one for school-age/adolescents with a pool table, computer, boom box, and video games. Board games and craft activities are provided for all age groups.

Pediatric Emergency Department - The Pediatric Emergency Department has 17 rooms and treats approximately 31,000 patients yearly. The Child Life Specialist provides preparation and support for procedures, and activities for waiting times.

Pre-Surgery Area - Each weekday morning, a Child Life Specialist is present in the pre-surgery area to prepare patients and families. A “live” pre-surgery tour is offered each Thursday afternoon and a Virtual Preparation tour is offered on the hospital web site.

Pediatric Intensive Care Unit - The 10-bed Pediatric Intensive Care Unit is covered by the Child Life Coordinator. In addition to patient preparation and support, sibling preparation for visits and family and bereavement support are provided.

Special Procedures – On Wednesday and Thursday (and other days as needed) the Child Life Coordinator provides preparation and support for pediatric patients undergoing gastroenterology procedures.

St. Jude Affiliate Clinic – A Child Life Specialist provides interaction, preparation, support, and activities for the children that are undergoing treatment for cancer and some blood disorders.

Child Life Staff is available on a consult basis to other areas of the hospital.

Other responsibilities of Child Life Specialists:

- Supervise volunteers
- Facilitate community group visits
- Represent hospital at events for children and youth
- Provide staff inservices



**The Child Life Program at
Huntsville Hospital for Women & Children
Prerequisites for Internship**

Upon acceptance into the Internship Program, a form will be mailed to you on which to provide written documentation of the following required items:

- CPR Certification
- Health Insurance
- Professional Liability Insurance
- Negative TB skin test within the past three months. If there is a history of a positive TB skin test, then provide a chest x-ray within the past year
- Varicella (chicken pox) titer drawn
- MMR vaccination
- Completed series of three Hepatitis-B vaccine or informed refusal of the vaccine
- It is recommended the student receive a tetanus/diphtheria booster if ten years have elapsed since last booster.



The Child Life Program at Huntsville Hospital for Women & Children Internship Requirements

- Case Study (including disease study)
- Journal (weekly discussion and submission to rotation supervisor)
- Mock Interview
- Special Project (with presentation)
- Article Reviews (discussion with rotation supervisor)
- Assessments
- In-services
- Daily debriefing with rotation supervisor
- Evaluations (each rotation, mid-term, and final)



The Child Life Program at Huntsville Hospital for Women & Children Internship Goals and Objectives

- To gain understanding of the impact of hospitalization on the emotional and developmental needs of children and their families
- To become acquainted with the needs of hospitalized children and to recognize creative and flexible programming to meet these needs
- To be an advocate for children and their families
- To prepare patients for medical experiences through the use of developmentally appropriate visual aids, medical equipment, and teaching puppets or dolls
- To gain a basic working knowledge of medical procedures, terminology, and the roles of other professionals within the hospital setting
- To evaluate oneself under the guidance of professionals and to be measured by professional standards
- To demonstrate knowledge of normal growth and development in children
- To demonstrate the ability to plan and implement a group play session
- To enhance one's interpersonal and communication skills
- To articulate the rationale of therapeutic play
- To begin the transition from student to professional
- To equip patients with coping, learning, and mastery skills
- To recognize the diversity of individual and family strengths and needs, acknowledging their support systems and community links



Dear Applicant,

We are pleased that you are interested in the Child Life internship program at Huntsville Hospital for Women & Children. We accept one intern for each 15-week internship in the fall and spring.

The completed application packet which should be returned by the appropriate deadline will include: (1) completed internship application, (2) documentation of volunteer or practicum hours (40 or more) completed under the supervision of a Child Life Specialist, (3) three completed recommendation forms (1 each from (a) Professor, (b) CLS supervisor for volunteer or practicum hours, (c) other.) (4) current copy of **OFFICIAL** academic transcript(s), (5) resume, and (6) statement of intent which includes personal goals for internship, what you will bring to our program, and why you desire an internship at Huntsville Hospital. Packet should be sent by **Registered Mail** to: Beth Daniel, MEd. CCLS, Huntsville Hospital for Women & Children, 911 Big Cove Road, Huntsville, AL 35801.

Following review of your completed application packet, you may be contacted for an interview. Selection is based on course work, GPA, letters of recommendation, and the personal interview.

If you have any questions, please contact me at bethd@hhsys.org or (256) 265-7979.

Sincerely,

Beth Daniel, MEd. CCLS
Child Life Coordinator

Spring Internship
January – April
September 1 – Application Deadline

Fall Internship
September – December
May 1 – Application Deadline



Child Life Student Internship Application

Name _____ Date _____

Current Address _____

Current Telephone Number _____ Alternate Number _____

E-mail Address _____ Social Security Number _____

Person to Contact in an Emergency _____ Telephone Number _____

Current College or University _____

Major _____ Minor _____

GPA _____ Graduation Date _____ Degree _____

Academic/Internship Advisor _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____

E-mail Address _____

College or University _____

Major _____ Minor _____

GPA _____ Graduation Date _____ Degree _____

List all classes relevant to Child Life _____

List all previous experiences with children _____

Signature _____

I am applying for the Fall _____ Spring _____ Internship in _____ (year).
(we do not offer a Summer internship)



Child Life Student Internship Application

Page 2

On this page, tell us 1) personal and professional goals you wish to attain during your internship, 2) what you will bring to our program, and 3) your expectations of the Child Life staff.



Child Life Program Internship Recommendation Form

Applicant _____ Date _____

The above individual has applied for acceptance into the Child Life internship program at Huntsville Hospital for Women & Children. This individual will be gaining experience within the environment of a medical facility that serves a pediatric population.

	Outstanding	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Weak
1. Maturity					
2. Problem solving skills					
3. Ability to accept guidance and supervision					
4. Functions responsibly and independently					
5. Motivation to learn					
6. Interpersonal skills:					
a. Adults					
b. Children					
7. Communication skills					
a. Adults					
b. Children					
c. Written					

Please share with us why you are recommending this individual for a child life internship. What contributions do you feel he/she will make in the field of child life? (You may attach additional comments on another sheet.)

Name _____ Position _____

How long have you known the applicant? _____

In what context? _____ Phone Number _____

May we contact you for further information? _____

E-mail Address _____

**Return to: Child Life Program * Huntsville Hospital for Women & Children
*911 Big Cove Road * Huntsville, AL 35801**