



## Child Life Practicum Program 2020

The child life practicum provides introductory experiences aiding the students' development towards becoming a Certified Child Life Specialist. DHR Health Children's Hospital uses the Texas Association of Child Life Professionals (TACLP) Common Practicum Application and Reference Forms.

### **Practicum Program Goals and Objectives**

To gain an introduction to the child life profession in general and to become acquainted with the Child Life Program at DHR Health Children's Hospital

To have the opportunity to observe interaction with patients on a one-to-one basis to develop assessment and communication skills

To experience an accepting, non-threatening environment to promote health interactions between child, staff, and family

To gain an initial acquaintance with the needs of hospitalized children and to observe creative and flexible programming in meeting these needs

To observe advocacy for children and families in their interactions with the health care system

To see children prepared for medical experiences through the use of medical equipment and play

To integrate theory and research into practice through discussion and assignments

### **Potential Observational Experiences**

Medical Play – Individual play experiences centered on a patient's hospitalization

Preparation – Individual teaching and play experiences provided to patients regarding specific medical treatments and procedures

Coping and Distraction – Techniques and activities offered to patients and families during hospitalization and specific medical experiences to assist with comfort and control

Therapeutic and Recreational Play – Programming for normalization offered to patients and siblings through hospitalization

### **Overview of the Practicum Program**

At this time, we offer fall, summer, and spring practicum rotations

Observations will be held at DHR Health Children's Hospital in the Hematology Oncology Unit, General Pediatric Unit, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, and Outpatient appointments

The practicum is 140+ hours over the course of 10 weeks with a combined inpatient/outpatient rotation: Availability is Tues-Friday, with a part-time schedule of two days a week



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The practicum is observation-based with hands-on therapeutic activities: Students will complete weekly readings, journals, and assignments

Students are assigned to one primary Certified Child Life Specialist who will serve as their supervisor throughout their practicum

Our practicum offers no stipend. Housing, transportation, means and medical insurance are the sole responsibility of the student

### Applicant Requirements

Completed [application](#), 2 [reference forms](#), resume (1 page), unofficial transcript from current institution submitted via email to [Edi.Castillo@dhr-rgv.com](mailto:Edi.Castillo@dhr-rgv.com)

A minimum of 50 hours of volunteer or paid experience with Children

GPA of at least 3.0

If the child life practicum is for academic credit or the fulfillment of any academic requirements, it is the applicant's responsibility to verify the child life practicum at DHR Health Children's Hospital fulfills the expectations of the academic program. If you are unsure please email [Edi.Castillo@dhr-rgv.com](mailto:Edi.Castillo@dhr-rgv.com) for clarification

If offered a place in the practicum program students will need to provide a background check and immunizations

DHR Health System will create an affiliation agreement with your university prior to practicum start date

### Interview Process

After initial application screening, candidates will participate in a short phone screen with DHR Health Children's Hospital Certified Child Life Specialist

### Application Deadlines

Session	Due Date	Initial Offer Date	Student Must Accept Position By	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offer Date
Winter/Spring	September 19 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday of October	the following Wednesday	the following Thursday
Summer	January 19 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday of February	the following Wednesday	the following Thursday
Fall	March 29 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of May	the following Wednesday	the following Thursday