



Le Bonheur Children's Hospital Child Life Practicum Program

The child life practicum is a minimum of 100 hours of observation within the health care setting where qualified students gain practical knowledge about the child life profession.

The primary goal of Le Bonheur's child life practicum program is to provide an opportunity for students to evaluate the strengths and limitations of their current knowledge and to broaden their understanding of the child life profession.

Students will have the opportunity to become familiar with medical play, pre-operative and pre-procedural preparation, coping facilitation, planning and supervising developmentally appropriate activities while working with individuals and groups. The practicum is designed to facilitate the student's growth as a professional by allowing observation of the daily work of a Certified Child Life Specialist.

Child Life Services
Le Bonheur Children's Hospital
848 Adams Avenue
Memphis, TN 38103
(901) 287-6021
child.life@lebonheur.org

QUALIFICATIONS OF APPLICANTS

The practicum program is open to students who have completed their collegiate level sophomore year. Applicants must be majoring (or have a degree) in child development or a related field.

PRACTICUM SEMESTERS

Le Bonheur offers two practicum sessions during the summer. The first session takes place during the month of June and the second session occurs in July. Students must be able to attend mandatory orientation and complete their practicum hours within their assigned month.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applications for the practicum program must be postmarked by January 5th. For tracking purposes, hand delivered or emailed applications will not be accepted. Notification of receipt will be emailed. **INCOMPLETE OR LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE REVIEWED.**

APPLICATION

Return completed application packet consisting of:

- Resume
- Unofficial academic transcript(s)
- Two recommendation letters
 - Non-family members who are able to comment on your work based upon observations
 - Letters must be in separate envelopes with reference's signature across the sealed flap
- Proof of required experience working with children
 - Minimum of 50 volunteer hours in a children's hospital or under direct supervision of a Certified Child Life Specialist
 - Minimum of 50 hours with well children. Preference given to those with experience in a structured environment, including daycare, nursery, school, camp, etc.
 - Documentation of experience on attached verification form (see page 4) or on official letterhead (separate from recommendation letters)
- Attach a separate document briefly answering the following questions:
 - Describe your interest in the Child Life profession.
 - What are your strengths in working with children?
 - What aspects of working with children do you need to improve?
 - What do you hope to gain from the practicum experience?
 - Describe the ways in which the work of a child life specialist contributes to the health care experience of a child and his/her family.

CANDIDATE NOTIFICATION

The submission of an application does not guarantee placement. Acceptance is based on program capacity and qualifications of all applicants. The most qualified candidates will move forward with phone interviews. Initial practicum offers will be made on the 2nd Tuesday of February. Candidates who are not selected will receive notification by email.

HOUSING ARRANGEMENTS

Practicum students are responsible for obtaining their own housing. The child life department will provide guidance and provide additional housing information as requested.

UNIFORMS

Our dress code for practicum students includes a plain white polo, khaki pants, and comfortable shoes (no tennis shoes). Practicum students are responsible for purchasing their own uniform.

ASSIGNMENTS

Practicum students will be responsible for completing required assignments during their experience. These varied assignments will promote personal and professional growth as students continue to pursue the field of child life. Additional assignment information will be provided during Practicum Orientation.

EVALUATION OF STUDENT

Informal evaluations will be provided to each student to help guide and focus professional growth within the field of child life. Any formal evaluation forms provided by faculty advisor will be completed by coordinator of practicum program.

PRACTICUM PROGRAM EVALUATION

At the conclusion of the practicum experience, the student will be provided with a site evaluation form. The completed form is required prior to the completion of the practicum experience. Information shared helps to promote program growth and development.

Supervised Hours Working with Children Verification Form

(Applicant: This form is to be completed by all places from which you are submitting hours. A verification letter on official letterhead may be substituted for this form.)

Applicant: _____

Institution: _____

Hours completed: _____

Type of experience – check one

- Working/volunteering within a structured environment with well children
- Working/volunteering with children and/or families in a stress-related environment
- Working/volunteering in programs designed for children with special needs
- Working/volunteering within a healthcare setting

Description of responsibilities/interactions with children and/or families:

Signature/Credentials: _____

Printed Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Phone Number: _____