

Sanford Children's Hospital 2025 Child Life Practicum Experience

Practicum Format:

The Sanford Children's Child Life Practicum is designed as an introductory experience for individuals interested in pursuing a career in child life. Through experiential learning and observation of Certified Child Life Specialists, Child Life practicum students begin to increase their knowledge of evidence-based, developmentally-appropriate interventions including therapeutic play, preparation and education that support and reduce fear, anxiety and pain for infants, children, youth and families as they cope with the stress and uncertainty of illness, injury and treatment. Through these experiences, child life practicum students will enhance their knowledge of the child life profession and investigate the process of applying child life and developmental theory to practice.

Practicum Dates:

- **Minimum of 100 hours/Maximum of 120 hours equivalent to 3-4 week time period.**
- **Minimum commitment of 30 hours per week. Can be scheduled up to 40 hours a week.** Hours can be scheduled Monday-Sunday, scheduled by Child Life Manager.
- Practicum experience will be offered in the summer of 2025 **(May 12 – June 6).**

Practicum objectives:

- Become familiar with the child life profession
- Recognize reactions to stress, illness and pain in children from infancy through adolescence and family members
- Observe and learn communication skills with children from infancy through adolescence and family members in the healthcare setting
- Understand the importance of establishing and maintaining therapeutic relationships with patients and families
- Recognize the value of play and psychosocially supportive interventions
- Identify ways to integrate theoretical developmental knowledge with practice

Practicum Pre-requisites

- Completion of Junior year of bachelor's level degree
- Coursework (a minimum of 4 college level courses) in the related fields of child life such as family studies, child/human development, education, etc.
- A minimum of 100 hours of practical experience with children from infants through adolescent (examples: nanny, babysitting, early childhood education, and the like)

Expectations:

- Written goals for practicum experience.
- Observation and supervised participation in all program areas.
- Daily journal of experience, including track record of procedures observed.
- Participate in discussion with supervising staff re: observations and insights.
- Completion of assigned readings/write one-two paragraphs summarizing article/reading.
- End of experience summary of how practicum experience has enhanced knowledge of child life practice and readied student for pursuit of the child life internship and profession.
- Conduct self in a professional manner (appearance, punctuality, flexibility, etc.)

Application Process:

- **Child Life Practicum: (May 12 - June 6, 2025)** Application is on next page and is **due by March 14, 2025**. Please fill out, scan and email to the following: Carrie.kindopp@sanfordhealth.org
All emailed applications should be subject titled "Child Life Practicum Application"

Sanford Children's Child Life Practicum

Applications should include:

- Completed Application
- Resume
- Transcript (Official or unofficial are accepted)

Practicum Pre-requisites

- Completion of Junior year of bachelor's level degree
- Coursework (a minimum of 4 college level courses) in the related fields of child life such as family studies, child/human development, education, etc.
- A minimum of 100 hours of practical experience with children from infants through adolescent (examples: nanny, babysitting, early childhood education, and the like)

Application Process: (sessions will be offered to two separate students)

- **Child Life Practicum: (May 12, 2025 - June 6, 2025)**
- Application is on next page and is **due by March 14, 2025**. Please fill out, scan and email to the following:
Carrie.kindopp@sanfordhealth.org
- Also scan and email resume and transcript
- All emailed applications should be subject titled **"Child Life Practicum Application"**

Date: _____

Last Name

First Name

Permanent Address

City

State

Zip Code

Email Address

Date of Birth (Month/Day/Year)

Present Address

City

State

Zip Code

Current Phone Number

Current College/University

Major

Cumulative GPA

Anticipated Graduation Date

Regarding academic credit for your practicum, please provide the contact information for your university affiliate. (Name/title, College/University, email, phone number are required.) All students who apply and are seeking credit for the program, must be sure that their University has a current affiliation agreement with Sanford Health.

College/University:

Email Contact:

Phone Number Contact:

Field Experiences (Please list health related or work with medically complex or special needs children first):

Institution: _____ Number of hours: _____

Position: _____ Dates: _____

Institution: _____ Number of hours: _____

Position: _____ Dates: _____

Institution: _____ Number of hours: _____

Position: _____ Dates: _____

Institution: _____ Number of hours: _____

Position: _____ Dates: _____

Institution: _____ Number of hours: _____

Position: _____ Dates: _____

Please list all academic classes relevant to the field of child life (us additional space if needed):

Class: _____ Date Completed: _____

Class: _____ Date Completed: _____

Class: _____ Date Completed: _____

Class: _____ Date Completed: _____

Class: _____ Date Completed: _____

Class: _____ Date Completed: _____

Class: _____ Date Completed: _____

Class: _____ Date Completed: _____

Class: _____ Date Completed: _____

Class: _____ Date Completed: _____

Class: _____ Date Completed: _____

Please answer the following essay questions:

- 1. How did you first become interested or aware of the child life profession?**
- 2. In your own words, describe what a child life specialist is?**
- 3. What have you done to prepare for this practicum? (experiences, volunteer work, academic courses, self-guided research/study, etc)**
- 4. What are your goals if selected for our child life practicum?**
- 5. Reflecting on yourself and your skills, abilities, personality and knowledge of child life, why do you think you would be successful in our practicum?**