

#### **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 Application:**

- Application process will open on December 1, 2025 and will close February 28, 2026.
- Interviews and selections will be completed in March of 2026.
- Applicants who are selected will be placed in either practicum timeframe and will not have a preference.

#### **Practicum Dates:**

- 2 practicum experiences will be offered in the summer of 2026 (THESE ARE SEPARATE PRACTICUMS/2 STUDENTS EACH)
  - May 18 June 2, 2026 (2 students max accepted)
  - June 8 June 24, 2026 (2 students max accepted)
- 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 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**

- Pursuing a relatable degree (Example: Child Life, Human Development, Psychology, etc.)
- Completion of freshman year prior to starting practicum (you may apply during your freshman year/practicums will be offered in the summer)
- A minimum of 100 hours of practical experience with children from infants through adolescent (examples: nanny, babysitting, camp counselor, volunteer experiences, etc.)

#### **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:**

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- Application is on next page. Please fill out, print and scan, or email to the following: <u>Carrie.kindopp@sanfordhealth.org</u>
- All emailed applications should be subject titled "Child Life Practicum Application/Student's Name"



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	
<b>Current Phone Number</b>		<u> </u>		
<b>Current College/University</b>		Major		
Cumulative GPA		Anticipated Gradu	uation Date	
Regarding academic credi	t for your p	oracticum, please p	rovide the contact	
information for your unive	-	te. (Name/title, Col	lege/University,	
email, phone number are a All students who apply and		ng credit for the p	rogram, must be	
sure that their university h		•	•	
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: Position:	Number of Hours:  Dates:
Institution: Position:	Number of Hours:  Dates:
Please list all	academic classes relevant to the field of child life (use additional led):
Clacc	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 fe	or our chil	d life pra	acticum?
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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?