



# Child Life Department Practicum Program Information & Application

## Overview

- Introduction to the Child Life Program
- Overview of Child Life Practicum
- Student Information: Application Process, Deadlines, and Practicum Requirements and Expectations
- Application and Short Essay

## Introduction

**NICKLAUS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL** is a private, non-profit 283 bed facility which provides medical care services for children from birth through twenty-one years of age. The hospital was established in March 1950 as Variety Children's Hospital.

Nicklaus Children's Hospital Children's Child Life team is part of the Children's Experience Department which strives to create a positive and optimistic hospital experience through a therapeutic and expressive environment.

In accordance with this goal, our Child Life program's mission is to assess children's psychosocial and developmental needs in order to create an individualized plan of care through advocacy, education, and empowerment thereby normalizing the hospital environment and promoting best possible outcomes with a focus on family centered care.

The Child Life team at Nicklaus Children's Hospital consists of Certified Child Life Specialists who help provide developmental, educational, therapeutic and recreational interventions for children and their families by creating the most positive the hospital experience.

### **Practicum Rotation Units Currently Available**

Possible unit rotations can include in-patient and outpatient patient units that provide Child Life services.

## Overview of Child Life Practicum

**CHILD LIFE PRACTICUM** The Practicum program is a minimum of 128 hours over the course of a semester. The practicum semester is 16 weeks. Practicum students will be required to shadow a Certified Child Life Specialist once or twice a week (8 hours per week).

**SELECTION OF CHILD LIFE PRACTICUM STUDENTS** is determined based on a variety of criteria that include: academics, previous experience working with children, references, and an interview. Practicum student should at least be in their junior year of college. Post graduate applicants are also considered for a practicum opportunity.

**ORIENTATION** is provided by Child Life Department Community and Volunteer Resource departments.

**HOURS** are coordinated by the Child Life Department.

**UNIFORMS** must comply with Nicklaus Children's Hospital's employee dress code and the dress code of the Child Life Department.

## Practicum Information

1. **Child Life Practicum Application Process:** Students interested in applying to this program should follow the application deadline schedule below

<b>Practicum Session</b>	<b>Application Deadlines</b>	<b>Acceptance Deadlines</b>	<b>Start Date</b>
Summer	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday of May	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday of May	Mid/End of June-September

- A. **Application:** An application for the Practicum program is included in this packet. Please return it along with your typed professional resume, two letters of recommendation and an unofficial University transcript.
- B. **Interviews:** All final candidates will participate in an interview. The Child Life Student Academic Coordinator will contact candidates to set up a date and time.
- C. **Acceptance:** Students will be notified of their acceptance into the Practicum Program by phone or email on or before the date specified above.
- D. **Housing Arrangements:** The hospital does not have housing for Child Life Practicum students.
- E. **Stipend:** No stipend is paid to child Life Practicum students.
- F. **Eligibility:**  
To be considered, students must be at a junior level status (at the time of the practicum) or must have already obtained a Bachelor's degree. Suggested majors for practicum candidates are: Child Life, Child Development, Family and Human Development, Early Childhood Education, Special Education, Recreation Therapy and Psychology.
- G. **Recommended readings:**
- *The Child Life Handbook*
  - *Meeting Children's Psychosocial Needs Across the Healthcare Continuum*
  - *Psychosocial Care of Children in Hospitals*
  - *Child Life in Hospitals Theory and Practice*
  - *Theories of Development Concepts and Application*
  - *Official Documents of the Child Life Council*

## **STUDENT INFORMATION**

### **Application Submission Process:**

**Child Life Practicum Program applicants are required to submit the following:**

- Enclosed application and supporting essay**
- Resume**
- Unofficial education transcripts** from a University/College
- Two letters of recommendation** (one from an academic advisor or professor and one from a professional that has observed you interacting with children)

**In order for your application to be considered complete, remember to send your professionally typed application, resume, unofficial transcripts, and letters of recommendations to following address:**

**Nicklaus Children's Hospital  
Child Life Department  
Practicum Program  
3100 SW 62 Avenue  
Miami, Florida 33155**

## **Child Life Practicum Application**

To access the Child Life Practicum application please open link listed below:

- [Child Life Practicum Application](#)

Once your application is received and reviewed, you will notified of a possible interview. We appreciate your interest in Nicklaus Children's Hospital. If you have any questions, please contact the Child Life Student Academic Coordinator at 786-624-5482.

This hospital fully complies with the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1968 and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which prohibits employment discrimination based upon race, color, creed, sex, age, national origin, physical disability or veteran status.

A Criminal Conviction record search is made of all prospective volunteers of the hospital. A conviction record does not necessarily disqualify applicants; factors such as age and time of offense, seriousness and nature of violation and rehabilitation will be taken into account. However, concealment of any conviction on this application shall be cause for disqualification.