

Cancer Wellness Center - Child Life Practicum & Pre-Internship Experience:

Cancer Wellness Center is here to help anyone touched by cancer find a way forward. Each year, our free counseling services, support groups, and health and nutrition programs serve over 1,800 community members of all ages and backgrounds. People with cancer, family members, friends, and caregivers all come to us to connect and cope.

With guidance from a caring team of professionals and comfort from a participant community who gets it, our holistic services offer a space to make sense of the diagnosis that changed your life — and navigate whatever comes next.

Cancer Wellness Center offers a child life practicum for students who are interested in the integration of child life services in a community-based practice. The Child Life learning opportunity serves as a pre-internship experience for child life students interested in pursuing internship and certification status in their career goals. The Child Life learning opportunity is predominantly observational in nature with many components of reflection, critical thinking, and application to elevate a student's learning and in alignment with the ACLP Pre-Internship Modules.

Child Life:

Child life specialists are trained professionals with expertise in helping children and their families overcome life's most challenging events. Armed with a strong background in child development and family systems, child life specialists promote effective coping through play, preparation, education, and self-expression activities. They provide emotional support for families and encourage optimum development of children facing a broad range of challenging experiences, particularly those related to healthcare and hospitalization. Because they understand that a child's wellbeing depends on the support of the family, child life specialists provide information, support and guidance to parents, siblings, and other family members. They also play a vital role in educating caregivers, administrators, and the public about the needs of children under stress. (Child Life Council, 2016)

Overview:

- Students will be required to complete a volunteer confidentiality form prior to starting work.
- The practicum experience is a minimum of 100 hours over 14 weeks, **starting the week of September 9th**.
- The practicum student will work with CLS supervisor to schedule each week.
- All synchronous learning opportunities will be documented as hours towards practicum total.
- Students are required to keep track of their hours completed and obtain weekly sign-off from CLS supervisor.
- This learning opportunity is observationally based with hands-on activities including planning and implementing therapeutic activities and building rapport with the Center's participants.
- Learning content aligns with the ACLP Pre-Internship Modules to equip the student for their child life internship and beyond.
- Weekly assignments consist of journals, developmental assessments, and developing therapeutic activities.
- Student will be evaluated throughout his/her child life learning experience with ongoing feedback, conversations, and opportunities for learning and growth discussed during weekly supervisions.
- Students will be given a mid-semester and final evaluation.

- Consistent reflective supervision with an on-site supervisor will provide the student with the opportunity to reflect on their learning experiences. This will take place through supportive feedback, discussions on clinical issues, and observations of student's work.

Learning Outcomes:

Student will:

- Observe and appreciate the value of community-based child life specialist practices.
- Develop individual goals in consultation with CLS supervisor.
- Demonstrate their ability to link classroom learning experiences to field site practices.
- Develop observational skills with children, youth, families, staff, and programs and its implications for child life practice.
- Participate in clinical discussions, meetings, and daily practices of a CCLS in a cancer non-profit community-based practice.

Student will have the opportunity to:

- Observe the daily operations of child life services within the cancer non-profit community-based practice.
- Observe as supervisor completes child life assessments and intake of new participants.
- Observe as supervisor provides support to children who have parents or adult family members diagnosed with cancer, pediatric cancer patients/or are siblings.
- Observe as supervisor provides support to children who are bereaved.
- Observe child life care planning and implementation of therapeutic activities.
- Observe organization meetings and programming.
- Learn about the non-profit sector from various staff members across all departments.

Attendance Policy

It is the responsibility of the student to arrive on time. Absence and tardiness will affect the student's evaluation.

- Students must call or email the supervisor to inform them of an absence.
- Frequent tardiness may affect the student's opportunity to continue the practicum.
- Absences will need to be rescheduled. Unexcused absences or frequent tardiness may result in termination from the program.

Application is due by August 26th.

Child Life Specialist Supervisor Contact Information:

Elyssa Siegel, CCLS

Office Number: 847 562-4982

Email: esiegel@cancerwellness.org

www.cancerwellness.org

215 Revere Drive, Northbrook, IL 60062 | 847.509.9595