



Dear Applicant,

We are pleased that you are interested in the child life internship experience at Huntsville Hospital. We accept one intern for a 680-hour internship. The completed application will include the following:

- ☐ Complete the Internship Readiness Common Application via the portal:
<https://www.childlife.org/certification/become-certified/clinical-internship/internship-readiness-common-application>
 - ☐ A minimum of two experiences (one involving children within a healthcare setting and one involving children outside of a healthcare setting) will be required to complete the written responses as indicated in the Internship Readiness Common Application. A maximum of six experiences can be highlighted, but are not required.
 - ☐ Current copy of academic transcript(s) (unofficial)
 - ☐ Eligibility Assessment Report
 - ☐ Child life course work completed by the time the internship starts:
Two Options:
 - ☐ Option 1: Graduation from an ACLP-endorsed child life academic program
<https://www.childlife.org/resources/endorsement>
 - ☐ Option 2: 10 college courses as indicated by the ACLP
<https://www.childlife.org/certification/become-certified/academic-requirements>

Downloaded Internship Readiness Common Application must be received by the deadline (as indicated by the ACLP) via email: HHChildLife@gmail.com

We follow this year's dates given by the Association of Child Life Professionals.
<https://www.childlife.org/certification/become-certified/clinical-internship>

Following review of your completed application, you may be contacted for an interview. Selection is based on written responses and connection to the internship readiness knowledge, skills, and abilities.

If you have questions, please contact me at michelle.mathews@hhsys.org or (256) 265-7969.

Sincerely,

Michelle Barksdale Mathews

Michelle Barksdale Mathews
Clinical Internship Coordinator



Child Life Program at Huntsville Hospital

The Child Life Program at Huntsville Hospital was established in July 1983 with funds and volunteers from the Junior League. The program functioned as a play and entertainment program until 1999, when it became more clinical. We cover the following areas: Pediatric floor, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, St. Jude affiliate clinic, Special Procedures/Endoscopy, Pediatric Pre-op, Radiology, Pediatric Emergency Room, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Antepartum, and children of adult patients at the Main campus by consult.

Descriptions of areas served by the Child Life are as follows:

Pediatric Floor – There are 37 inpatient beds on the pediatric unit. Diagnoses include: cystic fibrosis, sickle cell anemia, diabetes, sepsis, asthma, trauma, general surgery, orthopedic surgery, seizure disorders, gastrointestinal disorders, ENT surgeries, among several others.

Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) – This is an 11-bed unit. In addition to preparation and support, sibling preparation for visits and family bereavement support are provided.

Pediatric Emergency Department (ER) – The pediatric emergency department has 17 rooms, 3 Rapid Medical Assessment rooms (RMA), and treats approximately 31,000+ patients yearly. The child life specialist provides preparation and support for procedures and normalizing, developmentally appropriate play.

Pediatric Pre-op – A child life specialist prepares patients and families for the surgery experience. A pre-surgery tour is offered when needed. The area consists of 8 preparation rooms and a playroom.

Special Procedures/Endoscopy – A child life specialist provides preparation and support for pediatric patients undergoing gastroenterological procedures.

St. Jude Affiliate Clinic – A child life specialist provides interaction, preparation, support, and activities for the children that are undergoing treatment for cancer and blood disorders.

Radiology – A child life specialist provides preparation, support, and normalizing, developmentally appropriate play for children having radiological procedures. A tour outlining the MRI experience is available when needed.

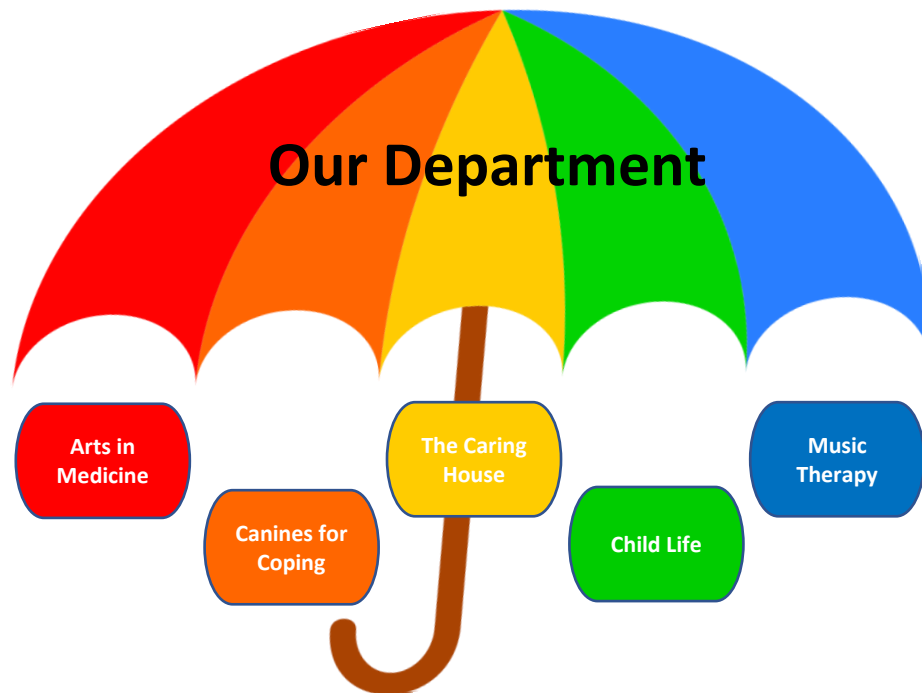
Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) – The child life specialist provides developmental play for patients to reach milestones, support and preparation for siblings, support for families, and is part of the palliative care team.

Antepartum – A child life specialist provides therapeutic activities for expression and coping via the Arts in Medicine program while mothers on bedrest await the arrival of their babies. Canines for Coping provides support for this area as well.

Children of Adult Patients – The child life team is on-call for situations that arise at the main campus where interventions with the patient or family provide family-centered care and coping.

Other Responsibilities of Child Life Specialists:

supervise volunteers	facilitate community group visits
provide staff in-services	represent hospital at events for children and youth



Arts in Medicine The Arts in Medicine program gives patients, families and staff an opportunity to engage with the arts. The program integrates literary, performing and visual arts into fun, family-centered activities to help children and adults cope with their medical condition and hospital stay.

Canines for Coping The Canines for Coping facility dog program helps patients and families cope with their hospital experience. Our dogs are trained from birth to work in the hospital and are fully prepared for all they will encounter during their daily work. They are able to provide services based on medical goals, can be present during procedures, and can assist with bereavement.

The Caring House The Caring House provides a safe place for children ages 3-18 and their families to cope with the death of a loved one and share their grief with others. We recognize that grief is a natural reaction to the loss of a loved one. The duration and intensity of grief is unique for each individual. Within each of us is the natural capacity to heal, and acceptance and caring facilitate that healing process.

Child Life The Child Life Program aims to ease fears and decrease the stress of hospitalization through promoting positive coping skills for pediatric patients and families. Our Certified Child Life Specialists are specifically trained at the bachelor's or master's level in child development and understand the unique stressors that pediatric patients and their families face when entering the hospital. Our specialists partner with the patient, family and other members of the health care team to help make the hard parts of being at the hospital more manageable based on the child and family's unique needs.

Music Therapy The Music Therapy program uses music and the therapeutic relationship to address the physical, spiritual, emotional, cognitive and social needs of neonatal, pediatric, adult, and geriatric patients throughout the hospital system. Music is the tool, but healing is the goal.



Child Life Program Pre-requisites for Internship

Upon acceptance into the Clinical Internship Experience, the learner must provide written documentation of the following required items:

- CPR Certification
- Health Insurance
- Professional Liability Insurance (if non-affiliated)
- Negative TB skin test within the past three months. If there is a history of a positive TB skin test, then provide a chest x-ray within the past year
- Varicella (chicken pox) titer drawn
- MMR vaccination
- Completed series of three Hepatitis-B vaccine or informed refusal of the vaccine
- Completed series of initial Covid 19 vaccine
- It is recommended the student receive a tetanus/diphtheria booster if ten years have elapsed since last booster



Child Life Internship Goals and Objectives

- To gain understanding of the impact of hospitalization on the emotional and developmental needs of children and their families
- To become acquainted with the needs of hospitalized children and to recognize creative and flexible programming to meet these needs
- To be an advocate for children and their families
- To prepare patients for medical experiences through the use of developmentally appropriate visual aids, medical equipment, and teaching puppets or dolls
- To gain a basic working knowledge of medical procedures, terminology, and the roles of other professionals within the hospital setting
- To evaluate oneself under the guidance of professionals and to be measured by professional standards
- To demonstrate knowledge of normal growth and development in children
- To demonstrate the ability to plan and implement a play session
- To enhance one's interpersonal and communication skills
- To articulate the rationale of therapeutic play
- To begin the transition from student to professional
- To equip patients with coping, learning, and mastery skills
- To recognize the diversity of individual and family strengths and needs, acknowledging their support systems, culture, and community links
- To promote the inclusion, belonging, and the emotional safety of children, families, staff, colleagues, and the community
- To verbalize and exhibit knowledge of health disparities and its effects on children and families



Child Life Internship Requirements

- Case study (including disease review)
- Journal
- Mock interview
- Intern project (with presentation)
- Read and understand research
- In-services which include modules established by the Association of Child Life Professionals
- Assignments directly related to the learning modules established by the Association of Child Life Professionals
- Interdisciplinary team visits within the hospital
- Daily debriefing with rotation supervisor
- Weekly debriefing with internship supervisor
- Evaluations (each rotation, mid-term, final, and self)