Anne Arundel Medical Center- Child Life Practicum

Thank you for your interest in the Child Life Practicum at Anne Arundel Medical Center in Annapolis, MD. This program provides students with an opportunity to work with children and adolescents in a health care setting.

Practicum students gain exposure to the field of child life both through observations, and interactions with patients and families. Our hope is that the practicum program will allow a student insight into the daily duties of a child life specialist, the various psycho-social needs of patients and families and a connection between theory and practice within the child life field.

Our child life program is committed to providing high quality education and training for prospective child life professionals. The child life practicum is designed to give students the opportunity to be a first-hand observer of the work of the child life specialist and to help students enhance their understanding of the unique needs of hospitalized children and their families. Practicum students will observe many of the clinical interventions conducted by child life specialists, including but not limited to procedural preparation and support, diagnostic teaching, medical play, and bereavement support. Students will also have many opportunities to engage directly with patients and families in a play-based and psychosocially nurturing context, thereby expanding on the fundamental patient interaction skills previously learned during volunteer experiences. Relevant readings and assignments will supplement the student's clinical experiences throughout the practicum.

We are looking for highly motivated, hard-working students who have the ability to connect with and provide comfort to children of a variety of ages. Selection of practicum students is based on previous experience working with children, academics, interview and references. Experience working with children in a hospital setting is required.

Our practicum will consist of 120 hours that will be completed in 10 weeks. The student will be expected to work four hour shifts, 3 times a week or six hour shifts, 2 times a week. Shift times may vary. During the practicum the student will receive a hospital orientation as well as rotations in the pediatric emergency department and the pediatric inpatient unit.

Again, we thank you for your interest in AAMC’s child life practicum program and we look forward to receiving your application. If appropriate, we will contact you, to schedule an interview. If you have any questions please feel free to contact us.

Our History:
With the new design and opening of a pediatric emergency department and pediatric inpatient unit, the organization took the opportunity to hire a Child Life Specialist. In May 2012 Meghan Siegel started the child life program. With the philanthropic support of the community the program recently grew to include another full time Child Life Specialist, Polly Hurlburt, and a part time assistant. The expansion of the program has not only provided more services to children and families in the hospital but has also enabled a variety of programs to enhance the services offered to families, staff and now prospective child life students.

**Requirements:**

To be considered for the practicum, please submit the following:

- Application
- Short Essay Questions
- Documentation of a minimum of 50 volunteer hours with children in a hospital (preferably under a Child Life program) completed by application deadline
- Currently enrolled in at least their sophomore year of college in a related field with applicable course work
- Minimum of 3.0 GPA
- Transcripts from all colleges attended (unofficial acceptable)
- Recommendation forms (minimum 2)
- Resume
- Immunization verification form

*(must be completed prior to start date if applicable)*

*Applications will be reviewed by the Child Life team; the most qualified applicants will be offered an opportunity to participate in a peer interview.*

*Please indicate any scheduling restrictions you have*

| Monday |  
| Tuesday |  
| Wednesday |  
| Thursday |  
| Friday |  
| Saturday |  
| Sunday |  

**Short Essay Questions:**
*Please answer in paragraph form and attach to application.*

1. What have you done to increase your knowledge and awareness of the child life profession?
2. What do you hope to gain from your child life practicum?
3. Describe a time that you have used play to meet the developmental needs of a child.
4. Briefly tell us why you are the most qualified candidate for a practicum at AAMC.

**Practicum Schedule:**
*Schedules will be updated per semester. Please contact Meghan Siegel for more information.*

- 10/12 weeks
- 120 hours

**Contact us**

Please call or email additional questions.

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