



## CHILD LIFE INTERNSHIP INTRODUCTION

**Mercy Children's Center** is a network of pediatric services within Mercy Medical Center, a 917-bed acute care, not-for-profit Catholic hospital situated on three campuses. Founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1893, Mercy is Des Moines' longest continually operating hospital and one of the largest employers in the state, with more than 6,800 employees and a medical staff of 900 physicians and allied health professionals. Mercy is also one of the Midwest's biggest referral centers, offering a variety of specialty services that are unique to Iowa and the region. Mercy Children's Center pediatric services include inpatient care, Center for Craniofacial and Children's Reconstructive Surgery, Children's Emergency Center, Variety Club Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Variety Club Pediatric Intensive Care Unit and Children's Heart Center, Pediatric Clinics, Pediatric Subspecialty Clinic, Mercy Franklin Center and Pediatric Rehab. Mercy Children's Center is proud to be Central Iowa's only pediatric cardiology and cardiovascular surgery program.

**The Child Life Program** at Mercy Children's Center is a vital component of the healthcare team. Staffed by professionally trained individuals, our Child Life team helps children and their families cope with the emotional and psychological stress of medical experiences. Beginning in 1996 with just one Child Life Specialist providing services to Pediatrics and the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, the program has expanded to include seven Child Life Specialists providing services throughout the Medical Center. Areas of service include Pediatrics and the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, Medical Imaging, Pediatric Emergency Department and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Child Life Specialists are also on-call 7 days a week to work with children of patients in adult units and throughout the hospital who could benefit from Child Life interventions. Our goal is to meet the psychosocial needs of as many children as we can within the Medical Center.

**The 14 week Child Life Internship** offered in the Spring and Fall at Mercy Children's Center consists of 4 three-week rotations and a two week enrichment rotation that enables a more in-depth learning experience of a specific child life service area of your choice. The units in which you will be rotating include:

- Pediatrics/Pediatric Intensive Care Unit
- Medical Imaging
- Pediatric Emergency Department
- Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

Additional learning opportunities that are part of the internship include a daily journal, presentation of a case study, completion of an intern project, and weekly educational sessions discussing Child Life related journal articles. The purpose of this internship is to demonstrate how Child Life theory is applied in the clinical setting and to facilitate your transition from student to entry-level Child Life professional. Skills observed and learned throughout your experience will also help to prepare you for the Child Life certification exam.



## CHILD LIFE INTERNSHIP PREREQUISITS

- Bachelor's Degree or college senior enrolled in one of the following recommended degrees: Child Life, Child Development, Child and Family Services, Psychology
- High Academic Achievement: GPA of 3.0 +
- Ability to commit to 14 week, 560 hour internship:  
Interns will be required to work 40 hours per week including some weekend and evening hours
- Ability to participate in a mandatory personal interview
- Ability to pass mandatory health screening and show proof of up-to-date immunization record
- Ability to sign contract of agreement for internship participation with your college/university or with you if not affiliated with university/college
- Proof of Liability Insurance if not affiliated with a college/university  
-If you need to purchase an individual policy for student liability insurance, please contact Marsh Affinity at 1-800-503-9230 or [www.proliability.com](http://www.proliability.com)
- Required readings PRIOR to internship start date:
  - Gaynard, L., Wolfer, J. Goldberger, J., Thompson, R., Redburn, L., and Laidley, L. (1990). Psychosocial Care of Children in Hospitals: A clinical Practice Manual.
  - Thompson, R., Stanford, G. (1981). Child Life in Hospitals.



## CHILD LIFE INTERNSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ OR \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Applying for:

\_\_\_ Spring 20\_\_\_ \*Application postmark deadline: September 5<sup>th</sup>\*

\_\_\_ Fall 20\_\_\_ \*Application postmark deadline: May 5<sup>th</sup>\*

Application Packet Checklist:

\_\_\_ Face Sheet

\_\_\_ Completed Application Form

\_\_\_ Official Transcripts to date

\_\_\_ Professional Resume

\_\_\_ Three (3) Letters of Recommendation in sealed and signed envelopes

\_\_\_ Written Essay

**Academic Background**

University/College \_\_\_\_\_

Dates Attended (Month/Year) From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_

Major \_\_\_\_\_ Minor/Areas of Emphasis \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Date \_\_\_\_\_ Degree Earned \_\_\_\_\_ GPA \_\_\_\_\_

University/College \_\_\_\_\_

Dates Attended (Month/Year) From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_

Major \_\_\_\_\_ Minor/Areas of Emphasis \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Date \_\_\_\_\_ Degree Earned \_\_\_\_\_ GPA \_\_\_\_\_

List coursework relevant to Child Life practice (completed or in process of completion)

Course Title (minimum of 10 courses)

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_

11. \_\_\_\_\_

12. \_\_\_\_\_

List your experiences with children in non-healthcare settings (include estimated hours)

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List your experiences with children in healthcare settings (include estimated hours)

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Describe experiences working with children and families of various socioeconomic, cultural, religious, and ethnic backgrounds.

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Please list your special skills/talents.

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Tell us about your interest in Mercy Children's Center and why this would be a good match for your internship experience.

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Essay (maximum of 800 words) addressing all of the following:

- 1) How you became interested in the field of Child Life
- 2) What strengths you would bring to the Child Life internship
- 3) Goals that you hope to meet as an intern
- 4) Short and long term goals upon completion of internship

I agree to the following:

- I understand that it is my responsibility to ensure all components of this application are submitted by the specified postmarked deadlines
- I have completed the application truthfully and to the best of my knowledge
- I have read the application packet and understand the application requirements and internship prerequisites

Applicant's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date

\_\_\_\_\_

**All applicants will be notified in writing following an application review. If selected for an interview you will be contacted by phone. We will be using the Child Life Council recommended offer (October 22/June 22) and acceptance deadlines (October 28/June 28). All applicants are strongly encouraged to apply to other sites, as spaces are limited. Thank you for considering Mercy Children's Center for your internship experience, we look forward to reviewing your application.**

Please return the completed application packet to:

Mercy Children's Center  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Pediatrics/ Child Life  
c/o Jolene Vos  
1111 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50314

Please direct any questions to Jolene Vos at 515-643-4524 or Rania Robb at 515-358-4083