Dear Child Life Practicum Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in Our Lady of Lake Children’s Hospital’s practicum program. We are pleased to send you our application packet. In this packet, you will find information pertaining to our hospital and practicum program, as well as the application.

We offer a practicum during the spring, summer, and fall semester each year. Please return your completed application by:

- Spring Practicum (Starts in January) October 31 *Not offering 2020*
- Summer Practicum (Starts in June) March 31 *Not offering 2020*
- Fall Practicum (Starts in September) June 30

Once applications are received, qualified applicants will be contacted to arrange a telephone interview.

Thank you for your interest in our program. If you have any questions you can contact me at 225-374-1524 or by email at Dana.achary@fmolhs.org.

Sincerely,

Dana M. Achary, BS, CCLS
Child Life Practicum Coordinator
Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center is a Catholic health care facility whose mission is to care for those most in need. Our Lady of the Lake Children’s Hospital is a Children’s Hospital with in the adult hospital.

The **Children’s Hospital** has 87 pediatric patient beds broken down into two general pediatric units, a hematology/oncology unit, a progressive care unit, and a pediatric intensive care unit. OLOL Children’s Hospital also has a Pediatric Emergency Room and Outpatient Surgical Services.

The mission of the **Child Life Department** at OLOL Children’s Hospital is to facilitate positive adjustment to hospitalization by providing and advocating for services, which are family-centered, psychosocially sound, and developmentally appropriate. The Child Life Department uses education, procedural preparation, procedural distraction, emotional support, therapeutic play, and developmentally-appropriate activities in order to decrease stress and promote coping during a hospitalization.

The department is staffed by eight certified Child Life Specialists who are each assigned a specific patient care unit.

A **Child Life Practicum** provides students who are majoring in Child Life, Family Studies, Child Development, or a related field the opportunity to work with hospitalized children under the supervision of a certified Child Life Specialist. Practicum students will have the opportunity to observe the Child Life Specialist facilitate pre-procedural preparation, procedural support and distraction, and medical/therapeutic play. Practicum students will also have the opportunity to participate in playroom programming and provide bedside play.

**Practicum Goals/Objectives:**
- Become familiar with the Child Life profession and Child Life services offered on a general pediatric unit.
- Recognize and understand children’s and adolescent’s reactions to stress, illness, and hospitalization, based on developmental theories.
- Develop communication skills with children and families in the healthcare setting.
- Gain knowledge of Medical Terminology, diagnoses, and procedures.
- Recognize the value of play and psychosocially supportive interventions.
- Learn and practice intervention techniques with hospitalized children.
- Plan and facilitate playroom activities and bedside activities.
**Application Process**

Application packet must include:
- Completed Application
- Letter of Reference
- Résumé
- Verification of hours worked with well and sick children (form at end of application-print multiple copies if needed)

**Incomplete application packets will not be considered.**

**Additional Requirements**

- Completion of 50 hours working with sick children (hospitals, medical camps, etc. This also includes special needs and the family of patients with chronic illnesses.) *Must provide verification on form provided at end of application*
- Completion of 50 hours working with well children (babysitting, tutoring, etc.) *Must provide verification on form provided at end of application*
- Minimum 3.0 overall GPA
- Copy of transcript (unofficial will be accepted)
- Please do not include paper clips or page protectors
- **We strongly encourage our students to enroll in a course taught by a Certified Child Life Specialist if they have not completed one already in order to meet internship requirements upon completion of a practicum.**

Applications should be completed and mailed to following address:
- Our Lady of the Lake Children’s Hospital
- Child Life Department
- 5000 Hennessy Blvd.
- Baton Rouge, LA 70808
- Attn: Child Life Practicum Coordinator

Once the application deadline has passed, all applications will be reviewed and applicants will be contacted to arrange a phone interview. The most qualified and suitable candidate will then be offered the practicum position. If you have not been contacted by the child life department within one week, please contact us to ensure we have received your completed application.

Students completing the practicum for school credit should seek assistance from their university advisor to discuss arrangements to obtain university credit.

Start date/finish date and the number of hours to be completed will be discussed and agreed upon by the student, university advisor, and Child Life Practicum Coordinator.
Various assignments and article reviews will be due throughout the practicum experience. Practicum students shadow one primary child life specialist, and will have an opportunity to observe in other units as staffing allows.
Child Life Practicum Application

Name: ___________________________ Date: __________________

University/College Name: ________________________________

Current Address: ________________________________________

Phone Number: ________________________________

E-Mail Address: ________________________________________

Expected Graduation Date: _______ G.P.A.: _________

Degree: ___________________________ Major: ______________

Desired Practicum Start Date: ____________________________

Number of hours to Complete: ____________________________

Year in School: ________________________________________

Are you completing this for class credit? ___ yes ___ no

If yes, what is the class name/number? __________________

Provide brief answers to the follow questions.

1. List and describe relevant course work that you have completed.

2. In your own words, describe your understanding of the role of a Child Life Specialist.

3. Why do you want to become a Child Life Specialist?

4. Describe your experience with well children.

5. Describe your experience with sick children.

6. Describe your expectations of this experience and what goals you have.

Please list any Certification(s): ______________________________
Verification of Hours Worked with Children

Applicant Name: ________________________________
Location: ______________________________________
Number of Hours: _______________________________
Well or Sick Children (Circle one)
Supervisor’s Name: ______________________________
Supervisor’s Signature: ___________________________
Additional Comments: ____________________________
________________________________________________