

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in a Child Life internship at Children's Hospital of Orange County. CHOC Children's located in beautiful Southern California is dedicated to providing the highest quality, family-centered primary and specialty care to children. We are a licensed acute care pediatric facility with more than 300 beds. Our services include emergency, radiology and surgical departments, in addition to our intensive care, acute care, hematology/oncology, cardiac, neurology, neonatal intensive care and out-patient clinics. CHOC Children's has been ranked in eight specialties by U.S. News Media Group's Best Children's Hospitals. We are also proud to be recognized with a Gold Level CAPE Award, Magnet Designation and a Beacon Award for Excellence.

Our child life department staff includes a manager, department assistant, child life supervisor, creative arts supervisor, 25 child life specialists, special events coordinator, clinical educator, media programs coordinator and 3 music therapists. We provide clinical services in more than 12 departments, oversee 6 playrooms, and coordinate a variety of programs including: Seacrest Studios, Pet Therapy, support groups, pre-operative tours, school re-integration, Turtle Talk and many others.

We are accredited through the ACLP so we follow all of their guidelines for our interns which include an orientation week, 6 week rotation in an outpatient setting, 2 week mini rotation and a 6 week rotation in an inpatient setting. Interns are exposed to multiple units of the hospital throughout their experience. Our Child Life internship is a 15-week, 600-hour full-time program in which candidates are given an opportunity to put classroom theories into practice. To provide students with the best experience, we are not able to offer weekend or evening hours for internship completion. Our comprehensive program requires flexibility in your schedule. Rotations may begin as early as 5:00am (surgery) or end as late as 12:30am (emergency department).

Internship Application Deadline, Offer, Acceptance, and 2nd Offer Dates

Internship Session	Application Deadlines	Initial Offer Dates	Acceptance Dates	2nd Offer Date
Winter/Spring	September 5	2 nd Tuesday of October	Following Wednesday	Following Thursday
Summer	January 5	2 nd Tuesday of February	Following Wednesday	Following Thursday
Fall	March 15	1 st Tuesday of May	Following Wednesday	Following Thursday

To be considered for the internship, you will need to submit the following:

- Child Life Internship Application located on the ACLP website: <https://www.childlife.org/docs/default-source/certification/internships/common-child-life-internship-application.pdf?sfvrsn=26>
- 3 Internship Candidate Common Recommendation Forms; one (1) from an academic source attending school and the others (2) from professional sources (preferably from a formal child care setting from someone who has observed you work with children). Signed, sealed and mailed in with all other application documents.

- Copy of unofficial transcripts only from the schools in which you received your undergraduate & graduate degree(s). (official transcripts may be requested upon acceptance)
- Eligibility Assessment- Applicants must meet the educational requirements of the ACLP (in progress forms accepted if the class will be complete by the start of the internship)
- Resume and cover letter
- At least 300 hours of child life experience (100 with well children, 100 with hospitalized children and 100 in any professional setting caring for children)
- Child life practicum experience is highly recommended
- Please send all materials together in one envelope, do not include additional folders, clips...

Please mail completed applications to:

Christy Campo, Child Life Department CHOC Children's 1201 W. La Veta Ave Orange, CA 92868

Do not email application. Applications MUST be postmarked by the deadline date recommended by the Association of Child Life Professionals:

<http://www.childlife.org/StudentsInternsEducators/InternshipCoordinators/InternshipDeadlines.cfm>

After the application is reviewed, you may be contacted for an interview. Selection of interns is based on academic preparation, professional experience with children, knowledge of child development, support from letters of recommendation, child life experience and interview. We encourage you to apply to multiple internship sites, as we only select a maximum of two interns per semester.

Again, we thank you for your interest in the CHOC Child Life internship program and look forward to receiving your application information. Please feel free to email me at ccampo@choc.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Christy Campo, CCLS
Clinical Educator
ccampo@choc.org
(714) 509-9170

MISSION STATEMENT

“To nurture, advance, and protect the health and well-being of children”

Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC) is the center of a regional pediatric health care system dedicated to serve the medical needs of infants, children, and adolescents. The hospital not only provides high quality care to our patients, but CHOC also promotes the wellness of children by reaching out to the community with pediatric health education, preventive medical care, and child health advocacy programs. Our goals are further supported by pediatric research and medical education.

Driven by abiding interest in the care of the whole child, CHOC educates and involves the family in the care delivery process while nurturing the patient's emotional, psychological and physical well-being. CHOC believes well-qualified staff and volunteers working in an efficiently managed and supportive environment best support its commitment to excellence in regional pediatric health care. Within the boundaries of financial responsibility and quality performance, care is provided to children from all socio-economic levels without regard to race, creed, national origin, religious preferences or the family's ability to pay.

ABOUT CHILD LIFE

The Child Life Department helps meet the emotional, psychosocial, and developmental needs of children. The goal is to help children adjust to illness and hospitalization by minimizing stress and anxiety while encouraging positive coping strategies.

The Child Life Department uses play to help children understand, express, and develop. Through goal oriented programs, patients are given the opportunity for socialization, self-expression, physical and emotional growth, creativity, decision-making, increased confidence and independence.

Professionally trained child life specialists evaluate and assess the needs of patients and families to determine the appropriate plan of care. After assessment, child life specialists provide interventions to meet the goals outlined in the plan of care.

CHILD LIFE SERVICES

Medical Play and Pre-Procedural Preparation: Medical play enables children to learn through the use of medical equipment and special teaching dolls. It provides an opportunity for patients to express fears and anxieties while demonstrating positive coping techniques.

Multidisciplinary Team Member: Child life specialists collaborate with many members of the health care team to provide optimal care for CHOC patients. The Pain Team, Palliative Care Team, Feeding Team, and Institutional Review Board are some of the multidisciplinary committees that child life is a member of.

Hello Hospital: A non-threatening way to introduce children to the hospital. The program is an interactive program which includes: medical play, a question and answer session, and a tour of the unit where the child will be staying.

Seacrest Studios: In-house broadcast media center that allows patients the opportunity to engage with celebrities, explore the creative realms of radio and television and take a break from clinical care to have some fun.

Turtle Talk: CHOC is proud to be the home of an aquarium, a special theater in which Crush from Disney*Pixar's Finding Nemo swims up to and interacts with our patients. The twice daily show allows children the opportunity to ask questions about the sea, turtle life or anything fit to be answered by a sea turtle.

Discovery Arts: An organization that brings dance, music, activities, and costumes to the patients once a week. This provides an opportunity for the children to socialize, create, imagine, dance dress-up and much more.

Creative/Expressive Program: Weekly program planning provides activities such as *What's Cooking* for children to enhance cognitive development, imagination, creativity, fine and gross motor skills, and socialization skills. Specially trained artists and readers are also available to provide group and/or one-on-one interactions with patients.

Teen Program: The child life department helps plan and implement teen-oriented activities such as a yearly oncology prom, teen nights, and teen outings. We have a comprehensive Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) program to meet the unique needs of oncology patients ages fourteen to twenty-six.

School Program: There are two certified Orange Unified School District teachers available to work with inpatients in a classroom setting and at bedside throughout the calendar school year.

Special Community Programs/Celebrity Visits: The Child Life Department hosts a number of community visitors that to promote normalization and respite from the busy hospital routine. Programs may be educational, therapeutic, or entertaining. Current visitors include; athletes, theatre groups, science-on-the go, celebrities...

Pet Therapy: CHOC patients are visited by professionally screened pet therapy dogs five times per week. The program offers education, play, and normal life experiences, while providing a welcome diversion from the hospital and treatment routine.

Music Therapy: Music Therapy is an established healthcare profession that uses music to address physical, emotional, cognitive, and social needs of individuals of all ages. Music Therapy is a component of the interdisciplinary team that uses musical experiences and activities in a skilled manner by a trained and board certified music therapist to achieve non-musical goals.

Kids Kicking Cancer: provides weekly classes for outpatient s utilizing mind-body techniques found in the martial arts.

Grief/Bereavement Support Group: This group meets on the first Wednesday of the month, with parents in one area and children in another area. A family meal is provided and the rest of the session is dedicated to self-expression, coping, memory making and sharing ideas and thoughts related to loss and healing.

INTERNSHIP ROTATIONS

The CHOC internship program will expose candidates to a wide variety of populations. Listed below are the units where interns may have exposure in order to receive a comprehensive experience. The child life intern will have a full 40 hour week of orientation to the hospital, be exposed to two core rotations and choose one elective rotation.

Core Rotations: 6 weeks each, totaling 480 hours

Inpatient Areas:

The **Multispecialty Unit** will introduce the child life intern to patient condition reports, diagnosis, volunteer supervision, assessments, documentation, interdisciplinary rounds, procedure distraction and support, playroom responsibilities, and bedside interventions. *Hours 8:00am-4:30pm*

The **Intensive Care Unit (ICU)** and **Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit (CVICU)** will introduce the Child Life intern to rounding with nursing, working with a multidisciplinary team, providing education, support, and advocacy, and documentation. Topics covered in this unit include providing play to patients of varying abilities, bereavement, and optimizing family coping. *Hours 8:30am-5:00pm*

The **Neuroscience Unit** will introduce the Child Life intern to supporting patients for medical procedures, long-term video electroencephalogram monitoring, patient and family education and support and providing therapeutic play for extended stays. Topics covered in this unit include preparation, child life challenges, family centered care and coping. *Hours 8:30am-5:00pm*

The **Oncology/Hematology Department** will have many of the same intern duties as on Medical unit, but this population has stressors unique from patients dealing with acute illnesses. On this unit interns will learn how to provide interventions to children coping with chronic illnesses, how to support from procedures particular to hem/onc conditions. Interns may have opportunities to conduct medical play, distract for procedures, and to provide new diagnosis education. *Hours 8:00am-4:30pm*

Post-Operative Unit- will teach the intern how to provide interventions to motivate children to meet medical expectations, cope with post-operative treatment and provide normalization and therapeutic play
Hours 8:30am-5:00pm

Outpatient Areas:

The **Pre-Operative Department** is where the intern will learn to assist with our pre-operative *Hello Hospital* program, learn the various stages of development first hand, provide bedside therapeutic interventions, and accompany patients to their surgeries until the induction of anesthesia. *Hours 5:00am-1:30pm*

The **Emergency Department** will refine assessment skills in this quick-paced, high turnover environment. Duties include preparation for surgery, hospital admission, and medical procedures. There is a high demand for diversion and support during procedures, parent and sibling education, and providing play opportunities for children experiencing extended waiting periods. *Hours Vary 12:30pm-9:00pm or 3:30pm-12:00am*

Elective Rotations: 2 weeks, totaling 80 hours (Student's Choice)

Radiology/Imaging-preparing/supporting patients for MRI, CT Scan, VCUG, X-rays
Hours 7:15am-3:45pm

Outpatient Infusion Center- supporting patients and families during chemo, IVIG, labs and procedures
Hours 8:30am-5:00pm

We strive to provide our interns with a comprehensive internship experience, in addition to clinical responsibilities interns also:

- Complete assignments- we follow the guidelines of internship work set forth by the Association of Child Life Professionals
- Attend professional development opportunities- grand rounds, staff meetings, multi-disciplinary meetings, conferences, patient team meetings
- Support with special events- holiday activities, oncology prom, patient excursions, re-union parties, support groups, family night and a variety of other events
- Assists our volunteers by providing guidance, feedback and recognition
- Public speaking opportunities regarding educating staff and the community

INTERN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- To encourage communication and positive relationships between patients, families, and the healthcare team.
- To recognize ways in which hospitalized children react to and cope with hospitalization, medical procedures and new diagnoses, applying theories of human growth and development.
- To learn the roles of various disciplines in the hospital setting and to develop skills in relating to and working with other professions.
- To be a patient and family advocate while providing family centered care.
- To be a positive professional in manner and appearance at all times. To follow the Child Life dress code and to be aware of my body language, tone of voice, and attitude at all times.
- To be able to set up activities that will provide mental and physical stimulation as well as help create a socially normal atmosphere.
- To assist patients in various craft activities and games regulating content of program according to patient interests, developmental level, and physical ability.
- To assist in the pre-operative program *Hello Hospital* as an aid in preparing children for hospitalization.
- To assist in medical play sessions to help reduce anxiety levels and to help clarify any misconceptions of medical procedures.
- To learn about medical procedure preparation and diagnosis preparation in order to help educate patients and siblings.
- To study patients' reactions to various activities and report symptoms indicative of progression and/or regression.
- To supervise child life volunteers.
- To conduct patient rounds and delegate assignments to volunteers and co-workers.
- To attend staff meetings, team conferences, multidisciplinary meetings, and relevant education sessions.
- To demonstrate pre-procedural preparations and coping techniques.
- To assist in documentation of patient activity including assessment, plan of care, and interventions.
- To complete weekly internship coursework, journals, evaluations, and readings.
- To understand and apply appropriate medical concepts and terminology during medical play sessions with patients.
- To learn a variety of distraction techniques used for procedural distraction.
- To learn 'soft language' in order to appropriately prepare children for the hospital experience.
- To understand and follow isolation procedures and infection control techniques.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How many applicants do you receive? How many interns do you accept?

The number of applicants we receive varies each semester. In the past few years we have received approximately 100 applications for each session. We generally accept 2 interns for all sessions open.

2. Do you take recommendation letters or the recommendation form?

For the Summer 2019 term we will accept recommendation letters and the common recommendation form. For all other semesters after, we will accept the Internship Candidate Common Recommendation Form on the common application from the ACLP.

3. Do you take in-progress classes or practicums?

We accept in progress forms if the class or program will be complete by the start of the internship.

4. Does every applicant receive an interview?

Unfortunately, we are not able to interview each candidate. The application process is competitive; after we review the applications we offer interviews to only our top candidates.

5. When will I know if I have been selected?

We follow the guidelines set forth by the Association of Child Life Professionals for offer and acceptance dates.

6. Do you take unaffiliated students?

We take both affiliated and unaffiliated students. If you are a student affiliated with a university a contractual agreement between your university and CHOC Children's must be in place prior to the start of the internship.

7. I have volunteered in other settings; will that count for the 300 child life hours required?

We take all experience with children into consideration, however to be considered for our internship, applicants must have completed at least 300 hours of child life experience (100 with well children, 100 with hospitalized children and 100 in any professional/volunteer setting caring for children)

8. Do you provide housing for interns?

Unfortunately, we do not offer housing to our interns.

9. Do you offer part-time internships?

At this time, we only offer full-time internships. Each session is 15 weeks long, the spring session starts in January and ends in April. The summer begins in May and ends in August. The fall begins in September and ends in December.

8. Do I need to have completed the child life course work prior to the internship?

Our expectation is that students will be eligible to sit for their child life exam at the completion of the internship. The educational requirements should be completed when applying. For more information on the educational requirements please refer to the Association of Child Life Professionals, <http://www.childlife.org/Certification/Getting%20Certified/index.cfm>