



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

MD Anderson ~~Cancer Center~~

Children's Cancer Hospital

### Child Life Practicum Program

The Child Life practicum provides introductory experiences aiding the student's development towards becoming a certified child life specialist. ***The summer practicum deadline is January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012.***

### Practicum Program Goals and Objectives

- To gain an introduction to the Child Life profession in general and to become acquainted with the Child Life Program at MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital.
- To have the opportunity to observe interactions with patients on a one-to-one basis and in group situations.
- To experience an accepting, non-threatening environment to promote healthy interactions between child, staff and family.
- To gain an initial acquaintance with the needs of hospitalized children and to observe creative and flexible programming in meeting these needs.
- To observe advocacy for children and families in their interaction with the health care system.
- To see children prepared for medical experiences through the use of medical equipment and play.

### Potential Observational Experiences

- **Medical Play:** Individual and group play experiences centered around a patient's hospitalization.
- **Preparation:** Individual teaching and play experience provided to patients regarding specific medical treatments and procedures.
- **Coping and Distraction:** Techniques and activities offered to patients and families during hospitalization and specific medical experiences to assist with comfort and control.
- **Therapeutic and Recreational Play:** Programming for normalization offered to patients and siblings throughout hospitalization.

### Overview of the Practicum Program

- Each 150-hour practicum experience is structured as 20 hours a week over an 8-week period.
- Individual student schedules will be considered for the best experience. Availability is Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with a part-time schedule of three days a week.
- Students are assigned to one primary certified child life specialist who will serve as their supervisor. Students will have the opportunity to observe many members of the program including child life specialists and child life assistants.
- Our practicum placement offers no stipend. Housing, transportation, meals and medical insurance are the sole responsibility of the student. Lists of local housing options are available upon acceptance into the practicum program.