Child Life Internship in The Child Life and Creative Arts Therapy Department

The Child Life Internship at Mount Sinai Kravis Children's Hospital has been accredited by the Association of Child Life Professionals since 2017.

Thank you for your interest in the Child Life and Creative Arts Therapy Department at the Mount Sinai Kravis Children's Hospital. The goal of our internship program is to offer Child Life interns a wide range of learning opportunities through which to develop clinical skills. Through this internship experience, students will engage in enriching and thought provoking learning opportunities, which link theory to actual hands-on practices with children, youth and families. This internship program will help clinically prepare students in skills that can be applied to any setting as a Child Life Specialist. We offer the framework and support necessary for interns to build independence in developing thorough assessments, providing appropriate interventions, and creating unique programming for children and families. In addition, interns increase their skills and focus their learning through curriculum focus readings, seminars and relevant assignments.

The Child Life and Creative Arts Therapy Department at the Mount Sinai Kravis Children's Hospital is in alignment with the standards, philosophy, and mission of the Association of Child Life Professionals including the Standards for Academic and Clinical Preparation. This Child Life internship is distinct and separate from any other training programs within the Mount Sinai Health System. Our students are an integral part of our programming for hospitalized children, and we are committed to ongoing education in the areas of Child Life and the Creative Arts Therapies.

Program Goals:

Interns will, through their placement in the Child Life and Creative Arts Therapy Program:

- Develop Child Life clinical skills through hands-on experience and supervision in inpatient and/or outpatient areas
- Incorporate play, emotional support, healthcare education and family involvement to enhance the social, emotional, intellectual and physical well-being of children and families in the healthcare setting
- Gain a deeper understanding of the profession of Child Life.
- Enhance their practices in interactions with children, youth, and families.
- Explore developmental theories and have the opportunity to link theoretical frameworks to Child Life interventions and practices.
- Increase their knowledge of recommended practices for children, youth and families from diverse backgrounds.
- Participate in multidisciplinary meetings, special hospital events, support groups and supervision of volunteers
- Enhance their thinking skills through critical reflections, thought provoking assignments, journaling, seminars, as well as weekly supervision.

www.mountsinai.org/childlife
Scheduling Options:
Two scheduling options are available for interns:

Winter-Spring Session
40 hours per week for 16 weeks
A total of 600 hours

Fall Session
40 hours per week for 16 weeks
A total of 600 hours

Some clinical rotations may include evening and weekend hours to best meet patient and family care needs. Hours are not to exceed 40 hours per week. Anticipated time off must be approved before the start of your internship. Any additional requests for time off should be submitted in writing to your supervisor 2 weeks prior to the requested time. All time beyond 2 sick days must be made up in order to complete internship hour requirements. The child life internship is unpaid.

Placements:
Interns will begin their experience with a one week general orientation, followed by their primary clinical placement. At the mid-point, interns will rotate to their secondary clinical placement. Placement areas for interns include but are not limited to: Medical/Surgical, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), Oncology, Cardiology, Emergency Department, and Outpatient Services. Availability of placements will vary each semester. Regardless of the rotations, each intern will be supervised throughout the entirety of their internship by a certified Child Life Specialist meeting the standards set forth by the Association of Child Life Professionals.

Application Guidelines:
Admission Requirements:

- Interns must have completed all necessary coursework determined by Association of Child Life Professionals to obtain a minimum of a Bachelor's Degree in Child Life, Child Development or related fields. Master's level students preferred.
- Interns must have a minimum of 100 hours experience with children and families in non-healthcare settings (i.e. daycare, school environment, camp, development center).
- Interns must have a minimum of 100 hours of fieldwork or volunteer experience in a Child Life Program under the supervision of a Child Life Specialist.
- Interns must be affiliated with a university during their internship.

Application Packet Checklist:
Please submit in one envelope:

- Confirmation of completed pre-requirement of at least 100 hours volunteer/field work experience in a Child Life Program
- 1 current (within the past year) sealed letter of recommendation from a Child Life Specialist supervising your fieldwork or volunteer experience
- 1 current sealed letter of recommendation from an academic source.
- Current Curriculum Vitae
- Copy of Association of Child Life Professionals coursework review through Eligibility Assessment and documented verification of a minimum of 10 approved courses, including one or more course taught by a certified child life specialist(s) to cover all 6 applied areas of study in child life (current Eligibility Assessment required). In lieu of the ACLP Eligibility Assessment, candidates from ACLP endorsed academic programs may submit an ACLP Endorsement Letter which must include all coursework (completed, in-progress, prospective).
- Copy of Child Life Course Verification Form
- Official transcripts from all universities/colleges you have attended.
Required of Accepted Interns:

- Contract between the hospital and school must be negotiated prior to the start of the internship.
- Students must provide proof of housing in or near NYC. Mount Sinai cannot assist students in locating or securing housing.
- Students must participate in a health screening through our Employee Health Department.

Send Applications to:

The Child Life and Creative Arts Therapy Department
ATTN: Internship Coordinator / Jennifer Reeves
Mount Sinai Kravis Children's Hospital
One Gustave L. Levy Place, Box 1153
New York, NY 10029

After review of complete applications, applicants may be contacted for an interview. Selection of interns is based on college major, high level of academic achievement, letters of recommendations, written and verbal communication skills, strong personal qualities appropriate when working with children, families, staff and supervisors and strong knowledge of child development and child life.

Internships are offered two times a year and follow the recommended dates from the Child Life Council as stated below.

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<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Application Deadline</th>
<th>Initial Offer Date</th>
<th>Acceptance Date</th>
<th>Second Offer Date</th>
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For any questions, contact:
Jennifer Reeves, CCLS
jennifer.reeves@mountsinai.org

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