



Dear Prospective Intern,

Thank you for your interest in the Child Life Internship Program at Mercy Kids Springfield. Our program is designed for senior level students from the fields of Child Life, Child Development, Early Childhood Education, Psychology, or related fields of study who are pursuing Child Life certification. Individuals who are not currently enrolled in a university or college but who hold at least a B.A. or B.S. in one of the above listed fields are also eligible to apply. Internship candidates must have relevant experience in a healthcare setting (practicum and pre-internship experiences preferred) completed prior to the internship at Mercy Kids Springfield. Internships are offered two times a year (fall and spring).

Each intern shall complete a minimum of 600 hours of clinical-based work under the supervision of a Certified Child Life Specialist. The Child Life Internship at Mercy Kids Springfield provides hands-on learning opportunities while providing a working knowledge of the theories and research on which the Child Life profession is based. Intern responsibilities include assessing daily patient needs, writing daily journals, learning to prepare pediatric patients and their families for medical procedures and surgeries, charting on Child Life interventions, supervising playroom sessions, and completing a final project to benefit the patients in the children's hospital. Interns are required to work various shifts including days, evenings, and weekends.

Mercy Kids Springfield consists of a thirty-bed pediatric floor, twelve-bed Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), Pediatric Outpatient Services (POPS), Pediatric Emergency Department and the St. Jude Affiliate Clinic. Child Life also responds to consults on other units throughout the hospital when referrals are received.

Mercy Kids Springfield follows the ACLP deadlines for applications, offers, and acceptances in regard to student positions. These deadlines can be found on the ACLP website, [www.childlife.org](http://www.childlife.org), under certification resources and internship information.

An application completed can be completed through the ACLP Application Portal found here: [Application Portal \(smapply.io\)](http://smapply.io), and then submitted via mail along with two completed recommendation forms found on our website.

**A completed application should be mailed to the following address:**

Child Life Department – 1H  
Mercy Kids Springfield  
1235 East Cherokee Street  
Springfield, MO 65804

**\*\*Please note that recommendation forms must be returned in a signed/sealed envelope and should be completed by any of the following: a college/academic professor, a professional who can speak to your work quality/ethic, a Child Life Specialist with whom you have worked with.**

Thank you again for your interest in the Child Life Internship at Mercy Kids Springfield. After intern applications are reviewed and interviews are completed, a selection will be made. Please contact us at 417-820-3457 or [kristi.donovan@mercy.net](mailto:kristi.donovan@mercy.net) if you have any questions.

Thank you,  
Mercy Kids Child Life Department

