



Dear Prospective Practicum Student,

Thank you for your interest in the Child Life practicum at Mercy Kids Springfield. Our program is designed to help students from the fields of Child Life, Child Development, Early Childhood Education, Psychology, or related fields of study who are pursuing Child Life certification. The Child Life Practicum at Mercy Kids Springfield is offered during the summer session and works to familiarize students with the hospital setting and prepare students to excel in a Child Life Internship.

Each practicum student shall complete a minimum of 150 hours. The practicum may consist of more hours depending on the university's requirements. The practicum program involves a variety of clinical experiences, including observing a Certified Child Life Specialist providing pre-operational teaching, distraction during medical procedures, parental education, and developmentally appropriate stimulation for patients.

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.

Please submit the application form with two completed recommendation forms found on our website. Applications should be postmarked by February 1<sup>st</sup>.

**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 Practicum at Mercy Kids Springfield. After practicum 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 Services