

Child Life Internship  
Child Life Program  
Sutter Children's Center, Sacramento, California  
[www.sutterchildrens.org](http://www.sutterchildrens.org)

**\*\*UPDATED 2018\*\***

The Child Life Program at Sutter Children's Center provides services to our inpatient 40-bed pediatric unit and our 20-bed Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), Pediatric Day Unit (PDU), Pediatric Emergency Department (ED), Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), outpatient radiology, and outpatient surgery. We see patients ages 0-21, hospitalized for both acute and chronic illnesses. Our specialty areas include hematology/oncology, neonatology, cardiothoracic surgery, neurosurgery, neurology, pulmonary and cardiology. Sutter Children's Center is a comprehensive children's "hospital-within-a-hospital", offering on-site 24-hour pediatric and neonatal critical care physicians, more than 50-board certified subspecialists, a full medical transport team, and a patient and family centered care approach. Our child life team includes 15 Certified Child Life Specialists, a child life program coordinator, a child life assistant, three board certified Music Therapists, a credentialed school teacher, and our Canine Companion facility dog program. We are located in a new women and children's center located on the Sutter Medical Center campus.

The child life internship is a demanding, full-time, unpaid 15-week internship, which provides 600 hours of clinical experience, with continual educational opportunities. We offer rotations in the following areas: inpatient general pediatrics, hematology/oncology, PICU, NICU and PDU. During the last weeks of the internship, the intern may follow a small caseload, functioning as a child life specialist with close supervision. In addition to the clinical experience, the internship includes an extensive curriculum, based on the Association of Child Life Professionals "Clinical Internship Curriculum", with weekly topics, assignments, role plays, projects, and presentations.

Intern hours vary throughout the internship, with some evening, early morning and weekend hours. We highly recommend that the intern focus exclusively on the internship and not carry an outside work load at the same time. We find that the internship is a very intensive experience that requires full attention and energy throughout the 15 weeks.

Each intern is supervised by the child life coordinator, as well as a Certified Child Life Specialist who provides guidance during each rotation. Sutter Children's Center child life staff, with our various backgrounds, experience and expertise, are all here to support interns through the internship experience.

We offer internships in the winter/spring, summer and fall, and abide by ACLP application deadlines.

Application deadlines (application must be postmarked by deadline date):

For winter/spring – September 5

For summer – January 5

For fall – March 15

Intern candidates must have completed the following:

- At least 200 hours of experience within a child life program with at least 120 of these hours in a child life practicum.
- A bachelor's or master's degree program in a child development, human development, family systems or child life related major, with a minimum of a 3.0 cumulative GPA in each of your bachelor's and master's degrees.

- The child life course, taught by a Certified Child Life Specialist, which meets the requirement for certification (or be enrolled in such a course).
- All coursework required for certification, or be enrolled/registered for this coursework.

**If you do not meet these requirements, please do not apply.**

The ideal candidate possesses:

- A strong academic and practical background, including varied work experience with children and families.
- The ability to demonstrate understanding and knowledge of growth and development, with proficiency in articulating and applying this knowledge.
- The ability to effectively communicate with children and families.
- Strong interpersonal skills, as well as the ability to be flexible.
- The ability to communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing.
- The ability to communicate their own needs, and fully utilize clinical supervision.

To apply, a completed application must include all of the following:

- Typed ACLP Common Child Life Internship Application, found on [www.childlife.org](http://www.childlife.org) (please no handwritten applications).
- Professional cover letter including personal statement of goals and intent, in relationship to the internship and the field of child life.
- Professional resume.
- Complete university transcript (will accept unofficial copies).
- Three professional letters of recommendation:
  - One letter from an academic professor or supervisor and two from professionals who have directly observed the applicant's work with children.
  - Please do not include personal letters of recommendation as they will not be considered.
- Verification of completion of the required child life course work, or of current enrollment.
- Documentation of child life hours.
- Verification of a minimum 120 hour practicum, preferably on the "ACLP Verification of Child Life Practicum Experience Hours" form, or on institutional letterhead signed by CCLS.
- Eligibility Assessment from the Child Life Council.
- A copy of any written evaluation received from a volunteer or practicum experience (recommended).

Please submit all application materials together in one envelope. Please do not place materials in any kind of folder, binder or portfolio cover.

If further information is needed, please contact:

Amy Medovoy MA, CCLS  
 Child Life Coordinator  
 Sutter Children's Center, Sacramento  
 2825 Capitol Ave  
 Sacramento, CA 95816  
[medovoa@sutterhealth.org](mailto:medovoa@sutterhealth.org)  
 916-887-0491

*For more information about the field of Child Life, please visit [www.childlife.org](http://www.childlife.org)*