

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in Almost Home Kids (AHK) Child Life practicum program. We are very excited to have this unique experience available for students pursuing a Child Life career.

AHK is a one person, non-traditional Child Life program that provides services to two locations, Chicago and Naperville. AHK serves children with medical complexities, birth to 22 years of age, and their families. This practicum opportunity is intended to introduce students to the Child Life field and provide a unique perspective of Child Life.

The practicum at AHK will follow the six standards held by the Association of Child Life Professionals. Practicum students must complete 8-12 hours per week for a period of 14 weeks, with a minimum of 120 hours.

Application submission deadline:

**Application Postmark Deadline**

March 27, 2017

**Practicum Dates**

May 8/15-August 14/21\*

All required material must be postmarked by the application postmark deadline. Hand delivered applications will not be accepted. An application is not a guarantee of acceptance to the AHK Child Life practicum. Any further questions or concerns please email direct to [kbartelson@luriechildrens.org](mailto:kbartelson@luriechildrens.org).

Sincerely,

**Kari Bartelson, MS, CCLS**  
Child Life Specialist

7S 721 Route 53  
Naperville, Illinois 60540  
t [630.271-9155](tel:630.271.9155) f [630.271.9186](tel:630.271.9186)  
e [kbartelson@luriechildrens.org](mailto:kbartelson@luriechildrens.org)

*\*time frame flexible depending on students schedule and AHK location*

## Program Components

While at AHK, practicum students will participate in the following:

- Observe Child Life services; including, developmental assessments, procedural support, medical play, sibling support\*
- Observe inter-disciplinary rounds
- Facilitate group and individual therapeutic play activities
- Enhance understanding of the value of play and identifying appropriate play activities based on developmental capacities

## Practicum Objectives

By participating in observation, collaborating with Child Life Specialist and other inter-disciplinary team members, and participating in supervision and feedback, the practicum student will:

- Develop a better understanding of the multifaceted role of the Child Life
- Identify and integrate developmental theory
- Recognize the importance of play for children faced with medical
- Become aware of collaboration between inter-disciplinary team members
- Evaluate one's own performance and set goals for learning
- Complete assignments to develop knowledge pertaining to the Child Life field

## Program Pre-requisites

- Coursework (minimum of 4 college level courses) in related fields of Child Life such as family studies, child/human development, education, etc.
- A minimum of 50 hours of experience with well children
- A minimum of 50 hours of experience with children in the hospital setting

## Student Expectations

- Minimum of 4 written goals for practicum experience
- Weekly reflective journals of relating theory to experience
- Plan, implement, and evaluate 2 play activities
- Complete required assignments
- Discuss with CCLS about chart notes
- Complete self-evaluation and program experience evaluation
- Be able to travel independently to Naperville and Chicago

*\*Opportunity may be limited depending on population needs at the time of practicum experience*

## Almost Home Kids Child Life Practicum Application

Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Personal Information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person (for emergency) \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### College Education:

Institution	Major/GPA	Graduation Date
_____	_____	_____

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_____	_____	_____

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_____	_____	_____

*"Time spent playing with children is never wasted." –Dawn Lantero*

In order to be considered for placement, you must submit the following application materials to:

Almost Home Kids-Naperville  
Attn: Kari Bartelson  
7S 721 Route 53  
Naperville, Illinois 60540

\_\_\_\_\_ Completed AHK application

\_\_\_\_\_ 300 word essay (maximum) to answer each of the following questions:

1. Describe your journey into the Child Life field.
2. You are introduced to a 3 year old. What materials and activities do you choose for play to promote development. Describe why you chose the materials and activities.

\_\_\_\_\_ List of professional goals you hope to accomplish during your practicum experience at Almost Home Kids.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2 Letters of recommendations, signed and sealed

\_\_\_\_\_ Resume including total number of hours for completed experiences

\_\_\_\_\_ Signed application checklist

By signing, I confirm that the information provided in the application is true and to the best of my knowledge. Any false statement is cause for rejection or immediate discharge when discovered.

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_