

Dear Applicant,

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

Almost Home Kids serves children with medical complexities, from birth to 22 years of age, and their families. AHK is a one person, non-traditional child life program that provides services at locations in Chicago and Naperville. This practicum opportunity is intended to introduce students to child life in the non-traditional setting and provide a unique perspective of Child Life.

The practicum experience at AHK follows the six standards held by the Association of Child Life Professionals. Practicum students must complete around 10 hours per week for a period of 12 weeks, with a minimum requirement of 100 hours.

Application submission deadline:

Application Postmark Deadline

March 15th, 2020

Practicum Dates

Summer: Mid-May - early August*

**time frame flexible depending on student's schedule and AHK location*

All required material must be postmarked by the application postmark deadline. Hand delivered or emailed 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 contact Alex Schober, CCLS at aschober@luriechildrens.org.

Sincerely,

Alex Schober, CCLS

Certified Child Life Specialist

7S 721 Route 53

Naperville, Illinois 60540

t [630.271-9155](tel:630.271.9155) option 1

e aschober@luriechildrens.org

Program Components

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

- Observation of Child Life services including: developmental assessments, procedural support, medical play, sibling support*
- Observe inter-disciplinary rounds
- Plan group and individual therapeutic play activities
- Enhance understanding of the value of play and facilitate relevant activities (normalizing, therapeutic, development, healthcare, etc.)

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 specialist
- Identify and integrate developmental theory
- Recognize the importance of play for children faced with medical complexities
- Become aware of collaboration between inter-disciplinary team members
- Complete assignments to enhance knowledge related to the child life field

Program Prerequisites

- At least 'sophomore' level standing or second year in child life related degree fields such as family studies, child/human development, education, psychology, etc.
- Completion of at least one child development course
- Hospital or Healthcare volunteer/work experience recommended but not required.

Student Expectations

- Abide by AHK Guidelines especially related to timeliness, dress code and HIPPA
- Weekly reflective journals relating theory to experience
- Plan, implement, and evaluate play activities
- Completion of required assignments
- Self-evaluation and program experience evaluation at end of practicum
- 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

Date: _____

Practicum Session: _____

Personal Information:

Name _____

Permanent Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail Address _____

Completion of required child life course taught by certified child life specialist? (Not Required for Acceptance)

Completed

In Progress

No

College Education

Institution

Major

Graduation Date

Level

Institution

Major

Graduation Date

Level

Institution

Major

Graduation Date

Level

Institution

Major

Graduation Date

Level

Checklist for Practicum Application Materials

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

Almost Home Kids-Naperville

Attn: Alex Schober, CCLS

7S 721 Route 53

Naperville, Illinois 60540

Completed AHK application

300 word essay (maximum) responses for each of the following questions:

1. Please describe a memorable experience you have had with a child you worked with or during a volunteer experience that left an impact on you.
2. With so many other child advocacy careers, why are you pursuing child life?

2 Letters of recommendation, signed and sealed. (At least one letter from previous volunteer supervisor or child life specialist preferred.)

Resume or Curriculum Vitae

Transcripts (Unofficial transcripts will be accepted.)

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 _____

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