

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 21 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 community setting and provide a unique perspective of Child Life.

#### Practicum Dates

Summer: Mid-May - early August\*

Fall: September – December\*

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

All required material must be received by the application deadline. See AHK website ([almsthomekids.org](http://almsthomekids.org)) for specific dates. Hard copy or electronic applications will be accepted – please send all materials together. Please see email address and mailing address below. An application is not a guarantee of acceptance to the AHK Child Life practicum. Any further questions or concerns please contact Alexis Rhodes, MS, CCLS at [arhodes@luriechildrens.org](mailto:arhodes@luriechildrens.org).

Sincerely,

Alexis Rhodes, MS, CCLS  
Certified Child Life Specialist

7S 721 Route 53  
Naperville, Illinois 60540  
t [630.271-9155](tel:630.271.9155), press 1 for nursing  
e [arhodes@luriechildrens.org](mailto:arhodes@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

Institution	Major	Graduation Date	Level
_____	_____	_____	_____
Institution	Major	Graduation Date	Level
_____	_____	_____	_____
Institution	Major	Graduation Date	Level
_____	_____	_____	_____

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

## Checklist for Practicum Application Materials

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

Almost Home Kids-Naperville  
Attn: Alexis Rhodes, MS, CCLS  
7S 721 Route 53  
Naperville, Illinois 60540

OR email to:

[arhodes@luriechildrens.org](mailto:arhodes@luriechildrens.org)

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?
3. What do you hope to gain from your child life practicum experience?

Resume or Curriculum Vitae

Transcripts (Unofficial transcripts will be accepted)

Signed application checklist

2 Professional References

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 \_\_\_\_\_