Child Life Practicum

**Position:** Child Life Practicum  
**Reports to:** Child Life Supervisor  
**Status:** Practicum-Unpaid  
**Revised Date:** 05/2016

ChicagoCAC students are expected to perform their job duties and act in a manner consistent with the Core Values of the organization.

**Overview**
The objective of the Child Life Program is to make a child’s experience visiting ChicagoCAC less stressful and more empowering through child-directed play. Child Life students provide a therapeutic and trauma-informed environment that builds trust and relieves anxiety among the families we serve. Child Life students do this by facilitating recreational play and socialization. They also prepare children for services and answer their questions in a developmentally appropriate manner. Students will meet with the Child Life Supervisor on a regular basis for reflective supervision and to ensure practicum requirements are being met.

**Primary Responsibilities:**
- Provide trauma-informed care to clients and their families during child abuse investigations and therapy appointments.
- Collaborate with ChicagoCAC staff and partner agency members.
- Facilitate child-directed play and socialization.
- Observe and monitor child behavior and emotional responses, providing behavioral intervention and support as needed.
- Communicate significant information obtained from the child to the MDT members or therapist.
- Ensure the safety of children in your care.
- Document Child Life Sessions in the case tracking system.
- Complete reading, journaling, and case study assignments.
- Work on and complete an assigned project.
- Provide assistance with special programming.
- Arrange for provision of food and/or snacks to children receiving Child Life services.
- Complete daily cleaning duties in Child Life spaces.
- Attend ChicagoCAC trainings and other learning opportunities as required and/or available.
- Perform other duties as assigned.

**Discretion**
Child Life Students have a low-level range of discretion and independent decision-making.

**Relationships**
Child Life Students work closely with the Child Life, Mental Health, Advocacy, and Forensic Interviewing teams.
**Qualifications**

- Currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program, pursuing a degree in child life, child development, or another closely related field.
- Experience working with multiple children at one time and children of varying ages.
- Excellent oral communication skills.
- Bilingual (English/Spanish) preferred, but not required.

Please note: Students are required to participate in ChicagoCAC orientation prior to starting placement.

**To Apply**

Send resume and cover letter to CLpracticum@chicagocac.org. Also, please attach a document, which answers the following questions: Why are you interested in a Child Life practicum at ChicagoCAC? What do you hope to gain from this practicum? How have your experiences prepared you for this practicum?

Fall, Spring, and Summer practicums are available. Applications deadlines are:

- Fall: May 1
- Spring: October 1
- Summer: February 1