

Child and Family Life CCLS Fellowship

As the first Child Life program in the country, the Child and Family Life Department at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, has a long history of supporting pediatric patients and their families through hospitalization. The Child and Family Life Department is dedicated to decreasing the pain and anxiety associated with hospitalization, while enhancing the overall experience of our patients and families. Our child life staff has a variety of Bachelors and Master's degrees focused on the development of children. We provide services specific to developmentally appropriate play, diagnosis teaching, procedure preparation and support, education, music and art therapy, and overall coping.

The University of Michigan, along with the Child and Family Life Department, is committed to providing quality education and training for both students and professionals. The child life specialist fellowship offers entry-level child life experience for a college graduate who has completed a minimum 600-hour child life internship. Certification or exam eligibility required.

Program Details

1. The fellowship provides a salary for a full-time (40 hours per week), 12-month placement. Hands on clinical experience, training, education, and supervision are provided as part of the fellowship experience.
2. The child life specialist fellowship will have concentrated clinical rotations on units determined by departmental need. Clinical work will focus on the needs of pediatric patients and families specific to diagnosis education, procedure support, therapeutic play, bereavement, parent/sibling support, and advocacy, along with other child life interventions.

Clinical rotations may include units that currently have at least one dedicated CCLS. These areas include: Children's Emergency Services, Radiology, MRI, Blood Draw, outpatient clinics (float position), surgery, NICU, Pediatric Cardiothoracic Intensive Care Unit, PICU, Radiation/Oncology, Cardiology Clinic, Infusion Clinic, inpatient oncology, inpatient cardiology and general inpatient units. The fellowship schedule will vary and may include weekend and evening hours.

3. The 40-hour work week will include (*may vary depending on the week*):
 - 35 hours - clinical/direct work with children and planning for this work
 - 1 hour in-service education
 - 1 hour direct supervision or mentorship
 - 1 medical or psychosocial rounds
 - 1 hour journal or article review
 - 1 hour Child and Family Life/Mott committee meetings

4. The fellowship will provide the following:
 - Experience in several areas of the hospital.
 - Clinical experience with children of a variety of developmental levels. This will include both acute and chronically ill patients and their families.
 - Participation as a member of the health care team and in psychosocial meetings and rounds.
 - Work with families from diverse backgrounds.
 - Supervision and teaching experience through time spent with both volunteers and students.

5. Skills that are developed and focused on during the fellowship include:
 - Documentation
 - Assessment of development, understanding, and coping
 - Preparation of children for hospitalization and procedures
 - Communication skills
 - Advocating for the role of the CCLS, the patient, and the family
 - Professional presentation skills

6. This child life specialist fellowship at C.S. Mott is geared to individuals who:
 - Have completed a child life specific internship
 - Are certified or eligible to sit for the certification exam
 - Desire experience with a variety of ages, developmental levels, and diagnoses in a high acuity setting
 - Seek further career development in the child life field

Department Fellowship Requirements

1. Successfully complete assigned rotations per supervisor evaluation.
2. Attend Internship Seminars.
3. Attend and co-present at 2 intern clinical skills sessions.
4. Attend an average of 2 Health System presentations a month. This may include Grand Rounds, Grief Rounds, Brown Bags lunches, Schwartz Rounds and various other education opportunities approved by your supervisor.
5. Complete 1 literature review.
6. Complete 1 mock conference abstract submission.
7. Attend 1 school-reentry visit.
8. Present 2 staff education sessions specific to techniques, skills or knowledge that will enhance understanding or contributions to patient care.
9. Attend one external donor related event.
10. Visit 3 other Child Life Programs.

Benefits

1. Monthly stipend
2. Medical insurance (at cost)
3. Educational materials
4. Conference funding
5. 15 paid days off for the year (inclusive of vacation and sick time)

For more information about the child life fellowship program please contact
Lauren Thomas at 734 936-8495 or Lkyle@umich.edu.