

CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS AND CLINICS  
Child Life Department

**Expectations of Students Working in the Child Life Department**

*Nuts & Bolts*

- Report for work on time. If illness prevents you from working or you will be late, call your supervisor.
- Dress appropriately. (Casual clothes that you do not mind getting Play-Doh or paint on.)
- Give your supervisor any required evaluation forms well in advance of the deadline - with all information that is to be supplied by the student already filled in with the date it is due.
- Ask questions if you are not sure of the instructions/routine.
- Communicate and coordinate with supervisor on each unit to which you are assigned.
- Maintain safety standards in play areas.
- Participate in less enjoyable but very important parts of the job such as washing toys and cleaning up the playroom.

*Nitty Gritty*

- Keep a daily journal. This will be reviewed weekly by an internship coordinator.
- Participate in the ongoing evaluation of your performance as well as a written evaluation twice during the internship.
- Keep up on required reading materials and assignments.
- Develop a special project to be presented to the child life staff. This project should be beneficial to both student and staff.
- Communicate to your supervisor both positive and negative experiences.
- Attend patient review meetings. Communicate observations of patients and families to appropriate staff.
- Recognize that assessing and understanding the emotional needs of hospitalized children and their families is a continuous process. Determining how to best meet these needs requires ongoing effort.
- Plan and implement interactions with children of all ages in group and individual settings.

*The Bottom Line*

- Display enthusiasm for your work.
- Use time constructively.
- Show initiative. Ask Questions.
- Be respectful of patients, their families and hospital staff. Maintain confidentiality.
- Engage as a member of the Child Life Department.