What does a Child Life Specialist do?

- Promote effective coping through play, preparation, education, and self-expression activities.
- Provide emotional support for the whole family, and encourage development of children facing various challenging experiences, particularly those in hospitalization.

Child life.org
Job Responsibilities

- Assess needs of children.
- Minimize stress and anxiety.
- Facilitate growth & development.
- Prepare Children for procedures.
- Support the family.
- Communicate with health care team.
Growing Field & Gaining Recognition.

More child life specialists are helping children in other environments, such as outpatient healthcare facilities, Dr. offices, hospice care, and more.

Growing awareness and need.
Trends Continued…

**Career Opportunities**
The number of child life jobs continues to rise. Virtually every children's hospital across North America has child life staff. Most children's hospitals are in large urban areas. The CLC posts job opportunities to members on its Web site and there are usually 15 to 30 jobs posted. To find a job in child life, it might be necessary to relocate to a different state.

In the new millennium, child life continues in the traditional hospital setting (e.g., inpatient, outpatient, day program, ER) as well as in many nontraditional settings. In addition to hospitals, child life specialists are employed in hospice programs, camps, early intervention programs, courtrooms, dental practices, support/bereavement groups, community programs, and private practice, among others. Child life specialists continue to advocate for and apply their skills in many venues, wherever their knowledge and expertise can protect the emotional integrity of children facing severe stressors.

Child life.org & Mayo School of Health Sciences
Job Requirements

- Bachelor’s Degree in Child Development, Human Development, Psychology or related field.
- Minimum 480-hour internship under certified child life specialist.
- National Certification Exam.

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.
Job # 1

**HOSPITAL:** Greenville Memorial Hospital in Greenville South Carolina

**Pay:** $16.95/hour. Hours: 1 p.m.-10:30 p.m. (full time position)

**Working Conditions:** "Provides optimal developmental and psychosocially appropriate care for pediatric patients and families. Assesses children's developmental and coping needs and implements developmentally appropriate therapeutic interventions such as play, medical play, psychological preparation and rehearsed coping to minimize distress associated with the healthcare environment and to foster resiliency. Collaborates as a member of an interdisciplinary health care team to develop and administer an individualized plan of care."

**IV. Advancement Opportunities:** Unspecified

**V. Benefits:** Unspecified
Job # 2

Child Life Specialist at Maricopa Medical Center in Phoenix, AZ

**Pay:** $38,123 - $57,184 per Year. **Hours:** 40

**Requirements:** - Requires a Masters or Bachelors Degree in Child Life, Education, Child Development or related field; or an equivalent combination of training and progressively responsible experience that will result in the required specialized knowledge and abilities to perform the assigned work.- Must have one to three (1-3) years Child Life experience and previous acute care Pediatric experience.- Completion Child Life Internship-A current Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist and/or Certified Child Life Specialist (CCLS) certification required.- CPR Required- Must possess the ability to work with culturally diverse patients and families. Requires the ability to read, write and speak effectively in English. Bilingual Skills desired.-Excellent organizational skills, time management skills, and ability to meet designated deadlines are required. Must have basic computer knowledge.

**working conditions:** In hospital setting; high stress

**Advancement:** No room for advancement; entry level position

**Benefits:** No Benefits
Job # 3

MATTEL CHILDRENS HOSPITAL UCLA Child Life Specialist I

Hours: days, weekends

Salary: Minimum - $24.58/$4277 , Maximum - $32.44/$5644

Duties: Responsible for developmentally appropriate psychological preparation for medical procedures, sibling support, palliative care and/or bereavement. Participate in multidisciplinary psychosocial rounds, family conferences, and group clinical supervision. Document clinical services in electronic medical record...

Required: minimum of a bachelor's degree in Child Life, Child Development, or a related field. Required Child Life Certification. Masters degree in Child Life, Child Development, or a related field preferred.

Benefits: Vacation, Sick leave, holidays, health insurance, life insurance, depcare, retirement, disability, Accidental death & dismemberment, healthcare reimbursement account (HCRA), (auto, property, & casualty insurance), tuition reduction (two thirds registration fee reduction for university classes and 25 percent reduction for extension classes), credit union, transportation, child care, free counseling for employees
An inside look…

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-zFld9tFOBE
Reflections of Interviews