



CHILD LIFE FELLOWSHIP

Temporary Full-Time

May 2014-May 2015

The Montreal Children's Hospital (MCH) is the pediatric teaching hospital of the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC). In addition, the MCH is a fully accredited tertiary care Pediatric and Adolescent Trauma Centre and Neurotrauma Centre of Expertise. The MCH opened its doors in 1904, making it the first pediatric hospital in Quebec. Our vision is to be a world-renowned children's hospital devoted to putting the needs of Quebec children and their families.

Child Life Services at The Montreal Children's Hospital has a long tradition of working with patients and families dating back to 1936. The Children's was one of the first pediatric institutions in North America to open a child life department and over the years, the services available to patients and families have changed dramatically. The department now counts 8.2 FTE CCLS, 1 part-time librarian working in the Family Resource Library, 1 part-time Secretary, teachers and many other programs: Pet Therapy, Dr. Clown, Music Therapy. The CCLS are working in many areas including out-patients and in-patients.

The Child Life Service at the Montreal Children's Hospital is offering a twelve month opportunity for a Child Life Fellowship that will enable students pursuing a career in child life to advance their learning in this field.

The Child life Fellow will be responsible for the following:

Clinical

- Assisting children and their families in adjusting to the hospital environment.
- Fostering continued growth and development by providing appropriate resources and opportunities for play, for creative self-expression and for socialization.
- Encouraging the expression of feelings and promoting a sense of mastery and understanding of medical experiences by providing suitable play materials, opportunities for medical play and developmentally appropriate teaching.
- Collaborating with other team members to implement coping strategies in order to maximize adaptation.
- Organizing activities that provide acceptable outlets for the fear, anger or anxiety that may result from separation from family, restricted activity, an unfamiliar environment or stressful/painful interventions.

- Planning and implementing individualized activities to complement the care plan of the interdisciplinary team when normalization, assistance with coping, creative self-expression or other such child life interventions are required.
- Supporting the continuity of essential life experiences by encouraging participation in school programs and celebrating holidays, seasons and special personal days.
- Providing age appropriate preparation to patients for medical or surgical interventions.
- Integrating parents, siblings and other family members whenever feasible in order to normalize their hospital experiences, facilitate coping and support family bonds.

Administrative

- Compiling statistical information as required.
- Collaborating with other child life staff and/or community, MCH Foundation, public relations in the planning of special events.
- Assuring that materials, equipment and toys are maintained in good condition of repair and cleanliness.

Self-development

- Maintaining knowledge of trends and practices in child life and child development by reviewing current literature.
- Maintaining awareness and knowledge about cultural sensitivity.
- Assessing personal/professional development to maintain and improve skills and knowledge.
- Participating in hospital staff education presentations and departmental staff meetings.

Qualifications

- Bachelor degree in a child development related field; psychoeducation, psychology, education, child studies, therapeutic recreation.
- Proficiency in French and English, spoken and written.
- Leadership strengths, as well as ability to work within a multidisciplinary team.
- Ability to set priorities, to behave in a professional manner, to respect confidentiality.
- Ability to work independently.
- Demonstration of initiative and proactive problem solving.
- Compliance with infection control practices and established policies, procedures and protocols to ensure and maintain a secure environment for patients and families.
- Ability to advocate for patients and family well-being.
- Experience with children with special needs preferred.
- Child Life Certification or eligibility (exam within 1 year).

If you are interested to apply for this one year Child Life Fellowship, please send a motivation letter along with your CV before April 15th to: marie-france.haineault@muhc.mcgill.ca