CHILD LIFE SPECIALIST

JOB SUMMARY
Conducts planned educational and recreational activities for children, adolescents, and their families. Assists families in recognizing and dealing with the intellectual, physical, emotional, and social development of children and adolescents. Acts as patient advocate and functions as a full member of the health care team. (Additional details below)

QUICK FACTS
The Wage
- 2008 - 2009 $26.39 - 32.89 per hour
- 2009 - 2010 $27.18 - 33.88 per hour

RELATD LINKS
- Child Life Counsel - http://www.childlife.org/

TRAINING / EXPERIENCE NEEDED
- Bachelor Degree in Child & Youth Care.
- Completion of a practicum/internship in child life, and one year's recent related experience working with children and families, or an equivalent combination of education, training and experience.
- Eligible for membership in the Child Life Council, and meets the eligibility requirements to write the Child Life Certification Examination.

SKILLS AND ABILITIES NEEDED
- Firm background in child growth and development.
- Firm understanding of illness and hospitalization and their effects on children and families.
- Ability to work as a team member.
- Ability to supervise and orient students, volunteers and assistants.
- General knowledge of activities and procedures needed to foster the child's normal growth and development.

POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS
- University of Victoria – School of Child & Youth Care - http://www.cyc.uvic.ca/
- Vancouver Island University - http://www.mala.ca/hs/cyc/BACYC.asp
- McMaster University (Child Life Studies Post-Graduate Diploma Program) http:// registrar.mcmaster.ca/CALENDAR/year2008/sec_255.htm
- University College of the Fraser Valley (Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education/Child and Youth Care with a specialization in child life), whose programs offer direct child life studies - http://www.ufv.ca/ece.htm
- Cambrian College, Sudbury, ON (Advanced diploma in Child and Youth Care Post Graduate Child Life concentration) http://www.cambriancollege.ca/Our_Programs/Full-time_programs/showpage.cfm?cboPrograms=/fulltime/html/termprograms/200909CCPG.HTM&dept_page=true

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
- Admission requirements for the UVic program can be found at: http://www.cyc.uvic.ca/prospective/apply/index.php
- To determine if you are ready to apply, click here: http://www.cyc.uvic.ca/prospective/apply/ready.php

University of Victoria requirements. Subject to change. Requirements will vary between educational facilities.

Have a question regarding a career in this catalogue? Email jobs@viha.ca

The job catalogue contains general information only and is not intended to be used as an official VIHA job description. Job information and requirements are subject to change without notice.
JOB TASKS - A SAMPLE

- Contributes to and updates the individual care plans based on the medical condition, level of development, interests and individual special needs of each child. Observes, records, reports relevant information on patients' needs.
- Plans, coordinates and initiates educational and recreational activities, based on information gained on each patient, to further the intellectual, physical, emotional and social development of children and adolescents in the hospital, in designated play areas as well as at the bedside.
- Fosters normal growth and development through age appropriate toys, games, and activities.
- Plans and implements activities in order to assist the child to adjust to the hospital environment and to prepare them for any diagnostic or treatment procedures required. Provides support to accomplish these procedures.
- Works in cooperation with other hospital personnel, e.g. Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, in providing reinforcement through play activities of treatment being carried out.
- Supervises assigned Child Life Assistant.
- Oriented, supervises and provides direct guidance to hospital-based students.
- Oriented, supervises and provides direct guidance to volunteers.
- Assists families of patients to understand the developmental needs of their children and to their adjustment to the hospital. Encourages families to participate in decisions affecting the care of children.
- Assists in the development and implementation of preparation and orientation programs, as well as parent/patient educational information and brochures.
- Organizes visits by community groups and special entertainers to the hospital.
- Keeps abreast of new developments and literature in child life and related fields.
- Maintains equipment and supplies.
- Performs other related duties as assigned.