

**SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY
COURSE SYLLABUS**

Department of: Human Environmental Studies **Course No.** CF509

Title of Course: Child Life Services in Medical Settings **New:** Spring 1999

I. Catalog Description and Credit Hours of Course:

Analysis of the reactions of children to hospitalization. Discussion of clinical skills related to developmental and psychosocial care of hospitalized children. (3)

II. Prerequisite(s):

CF120 or consent of instructor.

III. Purposes or Objectives of the Course:

- A. To examine the history of Child Life and the rationale for its programming in hospitals.
- B. To discuss psychological reactions of children to hospitalization, medical procedures and treatments.
- C. To discuss Child Life Services and techniques for enhancing children's psychological preparation for medical procedures and adjustment to their illnesses.
- D. To develop a critical understanding of parents' and siblings' responses to hospitalization and Child Life Specialist role to meet the needs of families for support and information.
- E. To analyze the importance of play to hospitalized children and discuss the principles for providing age-appropriate therapeutic play experiences for them.
- F. To discuss clinical skills and age-specific guidelines for implementing a play program throughout the hospital for high and low risk children and utilize volunteers and students in child life programming.
- G. To examine and evaluate the hospital organization, relations with other professionals and challenges they can pose for Child Life Specialists.

- H. To develop an awareness of the scope of administering a Child Life Program and evaluate career opportunity for a Child Life professional.
- IV. Course Content or Outline:
- A. What is a Child Life Program? (3 hours)
 - 1. Child Life Interventions
 - 2. Relationships with Other Disciplines
 - B. Reactions of Children to Hospitalization & Health Care (4 hours)
 - 1. The Variety of Reactions
 - 2. Prevalence of Psychological Upset Resulting from Hospitalization
 - 3. Factors Related to the Degree of Psychological Upset in Children
 - 4. Characteristic Concerns and Interventions for Each Age-Group
 - C. The Child Life Role With the Family (4 hours)
 - 1. Importance of Parental Involvement and Family-Centered Care
 - 2. Advocacy for an Expanded Family Role
 - 3. Planning for Parental Rooming-In
 - 4. Information and Support Needed by All Parents
 - 5. Separation & Substitute Caregivers
 - 6. Parents & Siblings Responses to Hospitalization
 - D. Children's Conceptions of Hospitalization, Illness, & Medical Care (4 hours)
 - 1. Illness, Health Care, & Self-Causation
 - 2. Age-related Changes in Children's Conceptions of Illness & Health Care
 - 3. The Influence of Illness or Hospitalization on Children & Health Care Concepts
 - 4. Children's Concepts of Other Hospital-related Phenomena
 - E. The Importance of Play to the Hospitalized Child (4 hours)
 - 1. The Necessity for Play
 - 2. What is Play?
 - 3. The Role of Play in the Life of the Child
 - 4. The Hospitalized Child's Play
 - F. Implementing a Play Program (4 hours)
 - 1. Play Throughout the Hospital
 - 2. Scope of the Play Program
 - 3. Program Requirements
 - 4. Playroom Design
 - 5. Play in Other Hospital Departments
 - G. The Child Life Role in Psychological Preparation of Children for Medical Encounters (4 hours)
 - 1. Research on Preparation

2. Basic Considerations
 3. Preparation for an Anticipated Hospitalization
 4. Preparation for an Unanticipated Hospitalization
 5. Research on Specific Procedures & Environments
 6. Hospital Procedures & Treatment
 7. Specific Hospital Environments
- H. Research on Children's Reactions to Specific (4 hours)
1. Hospital Procedures & Environment:
 2. Hospital Procedures & Treatment
 3. Specific Hospital Environments
- I. Advocacy and Concern for the Environment (4 hours)
1. From the Child's Point of View
 2. Child Advocacy
 3. Advocacy Within the Hospital
 4. Monitoring Other Environmental Elements
- J. Relations With Other Professionals (4 hours)
1. Working in the Hospital Context
 2. Understanding Hospital Structure and Personnel
 3. Communication With Other Professionals
 4. Coping With Resistance to Child Life Programming
- K. Supervision of Volunteers, Students, and Staff (4 hours)
1. Extending Services With Auxiliary Personnel
 2. The Use of Volunteers and Students
 3. Introduction of Volunteers and Students to the Hospital Setting
 4. Supervising Child Life Staff
 5. Guidelines for Giving Feedback on Performance
 6. Formulating Objectives With the Child Life Staff
- L. "Selling" a Child Life Program (2 hours)
1. The Future of Child Life
 2. When Child Life Is Absent
 3. Impetus for Child Life From Within
 4. Creating a Job in Child Life
 5. Preparation for a Formal Program Proposal
 6. Cost/Benefit Analysis
 7. Increasing Support for Child Life Programming

V. Textbook(s) and/or Other Required Materials:

- A. Thompson, R.H., & Stanford, G. (1997). Child Life in Hospitals: Theory and Practice. Charles C. Thomas Publisher, Springfield, IL.

- B. Thompson, R.H. (1995). Psychological Research on Pediatric Hospitalization and Health Care. Charles C. Thomas Publisher, Springfield, IL.

VI. Basis for Student Evaluation:

- A. Case Study: Pediatric Health Issues (100 points)
- B. Child Life Program Proposal (100 points)
- C. 3 Exams (100 points each = 300 points)

TOTAL: 500 POINTS