



## DEPARTMENT OF CHILD AND FAMILY STUDIES

### CHILD LIFE PROGRAM



**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY,  
LOS ANGELES**

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Attention: Department of Child and Family Studies  
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4. CHDV 470 The Family & the Law
5. EDSP 400 Foundations of Special Education
6. NTRS 416 Child Nutrition
7. SOC 453 Social Aspects of Death and Bereavement
8. COMM 489 Intercultural Communication

Course descriptions for each course can be found in the on-line CSULA catalog at:

<http://catalog.calstatela.edu>

### JOB OUTLOOK

There is an increased demand for Child Life Specialists proportionate to the increase in pediatric hospital expansions and the trend for comprehensive healthcare delivery systems. Accredited hospitals should employ one Child Life Professional per every twenty pediatric in-patients.



Postage

# What is a Child Life Specialist?

Child Life specialists are experts trained in the field of *Child Development* who work with children and families in a variety of places like Children's Hospitals and out-patient clinics, doctors offices, hospice care, specialized camps, courts, and school. They may serve in a variety of roles like early intervention specialists and child development experts for physicians.

Children who confront stressful and traumatic events that overwhelm their natural ability to cope are vulnerable and often parents or other responsible adults maybe unsure of how to help the child cope. Because children process information from the world around them differently than do adults they have distinct needs for managing the effects of stress and trauma.

The Child Life Specialist, because of their expertise focusing on the psycho-social needs of children, promote effective coping through play, preparation, education and self-expression activities. They also provide emotional support for the families, who along with the child, face many challenging experiences related to healthcare and hospitalization.

## Types of services that a Child Life Specialist can provide.



In collaboration with parents and other health team members the child life specialist focuses on:

- Easing a child fear and anxiety through therapeutic and recreational play activities.
- Encourages understanding and cooperation by providing non-medical preparation and support for children involved in medical procedures.
- Advocating for child centered care.
- Considers the needs of siblings and other children who may be affected by the child's health issues.
- Gives pre-admission hospital tours and help direct parents to resources.
- Consults with out-patient families.

- Supports families dealing the grief and bereavement issues.
- Provides education and resources for parents and members of the interdisciplinary team.



## Major requirements.

In addition to the University's General Education Program and graduation requirements, the student will need to take:

- 68-69 units of core requirements for the major including numerous Child Development theory courses,
- and 33 units (8 courses) required for the specialization including:
  1. PSY 410A Abnormal Psychology
  2. CHDV 426 Hospitalized Child/Child Life Program
  3. CHDV 441 Men, Women, & Children in Transition