

Curriculum Vitae
Cara Smith, MA, CCLS
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Education

M.A., University of Missouri, Human Development and Family Studies, 2005.
B.A., Graceland University, Psychology, 2003.

Certifications

Certified Child Life Specialist, 2005-Present.

Professional Experience

Certified Child Life Specialist, Children's Mercy Hospital, Kansas City, MO, 2005-Present.

- Promote effective coping through play, preparation, education, advocacy, and expressive activities.
- Provide emotional support for families and promote optimal development of children during hospitalization.
- Areas of focus include pediatric intensive care, burn and general surgery units, trauma, emergency room, and child abuse clinic.
- Supervise student interns and volunteers.

Rehabilitation for Amplified Pain Syndrome Child Life Specialist, Children's Mercy Hospital, Kansas City, MO 2013-Present

- Provide expressive and therapeutic art activities for patients in 3 week long program designed to overcome amplified pain syndrome.
- Facilitate group and individual discussions and activities.

Sibling Donor Advocate, Children's Mercy Hospital, Kansas City, MO, 2011-Present.

- Developed program to educate sibling bone marrow donors on the process of bone marrow donation.
- Assisted in creating teaching tools and resources for donors and families.
- Serve as advocate to educate donors, voice concerns of minor donors and halt donation process if necessary.

South Africa Child Life Pilot Program, Red Cross Children's War Memorial Hospital, Cape Town, South Africa, 2009.

- As part of a team of child life specialists, piloted program at the Red Cross Children's War Memorial Hospital in Cape Town, South Africa.
- Focused on development of sustainable program in burn ward.
- Program still in existence today, with services spread throughout multiple areas of hospital.

Child life internship, Children's Mercy Hospital, Kansas City, MO, 2005.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Human Development and Family Studies,
University of Missouri, 2003-2004.

- Assisted faculty member in Life Span Development writing intensive course.
- Responsible for leading lab sessions including small group discussions, writing development, application of course information, and grading term papers.

Child life practicum, Children's Mercy Hospital, Columbia, MO, 2003.

Publications

"S is for Sibling Donor Advocacy," Child Life Bulletin (Spring 2013). Co-authored with Cara Morris.

Presentations

Conferences

"Are We Listening? The Voice of Sibling Donors," Child Life Council's 30th Annual Conference on Professional Issues, Washington, D.C., May 2012, Co-presented with Cara Morris.

"Child Life South Africa Project" (Key Note Address), Midwest Child Life Conference, Kansas City, MO, November 2010, Co-presented with Caroline Hargrave and Jamie Day.

"Reporting Child Abuse," Midwest Child Life Patient Activity Conference, Kansas City, MO, November 2007, Co-presented with Barbra Rudder.

"It Takes a Team: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Urgent Child Abuse Exams," Child Life Council's 25th Annual Conference on Professional Issues, Orlando, FL, May 2007, Co-presented with Barbra Rudder.

Hospital Presentations

"Positioning for Comfort," for Graduate Nurse Orientation, Children's Mercy Hospital, Kansas City, MO, 2011-Present (quarterly).

"Creating a Low-Stimulation Environment," for 2 Henson Staff Nurse Development, Children's Mercy Hospital, Kansas City, MO, April 2012, Co-presented with Caroline McIntire.

"Comfort Measures for Venipunctures," for Vascular Access Team Training, Children's Mercy Hospital, Kansas City, MO, April 2011.

“Development and Play,” for PHIT Kids Staff Training, Children’s Mercy Hospital, Kansas City, MO, August 2011, Co-presented with Caroline McIntire.

“The Power of Play,” Children’s Mercy Hospital Child Life Department, Kansas City, MO, January 2011, Co-presented with Angela Bright.

“Comfort and Language,” for Truman Nurse Competency, Truman Medical Center, Kansas City, MO, December 2010.

“Pigeons and Peds: Getting Patients to Do What You Want Them to Do,” for 2 Henson Staff Nurse Development, Children’s Mercy Hospital, Kansas City, MO, May 2010, Co-treated with Caroline McIntire.

“Child Life Lessons from South Africa,” Children’s Mercy Hospital Child Life Department, Kansas City, MO, March 2010.

“Child Life in the Lab Setting,” Phlebotomist Training, Children’s Mercy Hospital, Kansas City, MO, June 2006.

Child Life Intern Modules

“Trauma,” Children’s Mercy Hospital, Kansas City, MO, 2009-Present (biannually).

“Adaptive Play,” Children’s Mercy Hospital, Kansas City, MO, 2008.

“Child Abuse,” Children’s Mercy Hospital, Kansas City, MO 2006-2008 (biannually).

Guest Lectures

“Child Life 101,” for “Field Experience” (Dr. Alethea Rollins), University of Central Missouri, Spring Semester 2013.

Community Presentations

“Adolescent and Child Development,” for Medical Aspects Training, Missouri Children’s Division, October 2008.

Professional Service

Chair, Patient and Family Services Unit Council, Children’s Mercy Hospital, 2012-2013.

Co-chair, Child Life External Education Committee, Children’s Mercy Hospital, 2012-Present.

Member, Medical Missions Committee, Children’s Mercy Hospital, 2011-Present.

Chair, Child Life Comfort Task Force, Children’s Mercy Hospital, 2012.

Member, Child Life Council Bulletin Editorial Panel and Focus Review Board, April
2011-Present.

Chair, School Re-entry Task Force, Children's Mercy Hospital, 2009.

Professional Development Activities

30th CLC Annual Conference on Professional Issues, Washington D.C., May 2012.

Midwest Child Life Conference, Columbia, MO, November 2012.

Life is Good Playmakers Playmaker Training, Boston, MA, Fall 2011.

Topics in Trauma: Pediatric Burns. University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City,
MO, October 2011.

25th CLC Annual Conference on Professional Issues, Orlando, FL, May 2007.

The American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children 14th Annual Colloquium,
Nashville, TN June 2006.

Community Response to Disaster and Terrorism: Putting Research into Practice,
Mid-America Regional Council, Kansas City, MO, October 2006.

Child Adult Relationship Enhancement Training, Children's Mercy Hospital, Kansas
City, MO, October 2006.

Aftercare Bereavement Program, Children's Mercy Hospital, Kansas City, MO, Fall
2006.

Midwest Child Life Conference, Oaklawn, IL, November 2005.

Association Memberships

Child Life Council