

Sample Interview Questions for Child Life Internship Students

Becoming comfortable answering interview questions can be one of the most stressful parts of applying for an internship. In an effort to streamline the internship selection process for both internship locations and internship applicants, the Internship Task Force has created the list of interview questions below for students to use in preparation for interviews.

Tips for a successful interview:

- Be polite.
- Dress professionally.
- Smile!
- Be specific in your answers.
- Answer concisely.
- Demonstrate your skills.
- Share your related experiences—academic, volunteering, etc.
- Explain what makes you unique from other applicants.
- Ask questions about the program.
- Ask when you can expect to hear back from them regarding the internship position.

Three types of questions will likely be asked during an interview: open-ended questions, behavioral and/or scenario-based questions. Open-ended questions are questions that are designed to gain insight into your academic and applied experiences and personal perspectives related to professional philosophies and areas of strength. Behavioral and scenario-based questions are questions that ask you about past performances in specific situations or hypothetical situations. For most interview questions, there is no one right answer. It is important to try to give the answer that best fits you and what you would do in a given situation—do not simply try to say the answer you think your interviewers want to hear.

Below are examples for each of the 3 categories described above. These examples are intended as simply a reference to help students feel more prepared. Other interviewing resources may be found online or through your academic institution.

Examples of Open-Ended Questions:

- There are many careers involving service to and advocacy for children and families. Why have you chosen to pursue child life?
- What qualities and skills do you possess that will help you during your internship and later as a specialist?
- Please describe a specific experience you've had with a hospitalized child or family that was significant for you?

Examples of Behavioral Questions:

- Tell us about a time when you may have had a difficult time maintaining a professional (versus personal) relationship with a child or family.
- Feedback is an important part of the learning process. Give an example of a time in which you received constructive feedback and tell what you did with the information?
- Describe a time when you had to advocate for a child.

Examples of Scenario-Based Questions:

- As an intern, you are just meeting a patient and their family for the first time. They are unfamiliar with child life. Please introduce yourself and your role.
- Using what you know about child development, identify what will cause stress for the patient or family in the following situations.
 - A 6-month-old child is having an IV start for the first time. Parents are present and very anxious and worried about how the child will respond.
 - An 8-year-old child is having an IV start. The previous IV start took multiple sticks. The child's parents had to go to work and the child will be alone for the procedure.
- You are conducting an activity in a crowded playroom. In the corner, there are two parents having an animated conversation. As time passes, their voices increase in volume and you begin to hear foul language being used. What do you do?