



The Journal of Child Life: Psychosocial Theory and Practice

A publication of the Association of Child Life Professionals, *The Journal of Child Life: Psychosocial Theory and Practice* is the first and only empirical journal devoted to the research and scholarship of child life professionals, developmental experts that provide patient and family centered care to children and families confronting stressful medical experiences. The peer reviewed biannual journal features the latest innovative science meant to enhance evidence-based-practice and promote the child life profession. *The Journal of Child Life: Psychosocial Theory and Practice* encourages submission of original quantitative and qualitative research, conceptual and practical perspectives, effective assessment and intervention methodologies, theoretical articles, descriptions of innovative service delivery models, and substantive reviews of issues relevant to child life practice.

Submission Guidelines

Purpose: *The Journal of Child Life* aims to increase the knowledge and utilization of evidence-based practice by child life professionals, reinforcing the validity of child life theory and practice. *The Journal of Child Life* encourages submissions that promote the development of the child life profession through original research, conceptual and practical perspectives, effective assessment and intervention methodologies, theoretical articles, descriptions of innovative service delivery models, and substantive reviews of issues relevant to child life practice. Each contribution to *The Journal of Child Life* helps to increase the knowledge and use of evidence-based practice by child life professionals, reinforcing the validity of child life theory and practice.

Before you begin working on your article, please review the general writing and submission guidelines outlined in *Writing for the Association of Child Life Professionals*, available on the ACLP website (www.childlife.org).

All submissions to *The Journal of Child Life* should:

- Be relevant to continuing child life education and development
- Address an important child life issue, problem, or subject
- Appeal to a wide audience of child life professionals and students
- Include a clear problem statement, project aim(s), and/or research question
- Be formatted in APA style and free from grammatical and spelling errors
- Not be previously published or under consideration by another journal
- Be approved by institutional review board if applicable
- Acknowledge funding sources and potential conflicts of interest
- If original research, report on a completed study

In addition, all submissions to *The Journal of Child Life* should expand on previous knowledge and demonstrate evidence of scholarship, including:

- Sufficient statement of problem or subject
- Appropriate identification of author's assumptions and frame of reference
- Sufficient methodology
- Knowledge of relevant literature

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- Consistent treatment of the problem statement, content, and conclusions

The Journal of Child Life welcomes submissions with the following formats:

- Quantitative research
- Qualitative research
- Mixed-methods research
- Substantive, systematic literature reviews
- Program development with pre- and post- implementation data
- Analysis of theory as applied to child life
- Case studies and case series
- Commentaries
- Book and multimedia reviews

Style Guidelines: ACLP adheres to American Psychological Association (APA) style in all published materials. Please review the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, Seventh Edition, for detailed information on how to prepare an article for publication, including guidelines on properly formatting references and citations and presenting data in tables and figures. If submissions are not in APA format, they will be returned to the author(s).

Blinding: Because *The Journal of Child Life* articles are subject to anonymous review by members of the Journal Review Board, the author must blind the manuscript by removing any information that could reveal his or her identity (this includes organization affiliation). This information will be incorporated back into the manuscript by the managing editor after the review is complete. Each article should be accompanied by a separate cover sheet with the following information:

- Article title
- Word count
- Name, credentials, title, organization affiliation, and address for each contributing author
- Contact phone numbers and emails
- Three key words that describes the manuscript's topic
- Acknowledgement of funding sources
- Acknowledgement of conflicts of interest

Word Count: *The Journal of Child Life* articles are in-depth explorations of a topic but lengths vary by topic and methods. If the word count exceeds the suggestions listed below, work to cut down your article before submitting:

- Abstract: 250 words
- Original research: 4,000 words
- Quality improvement: 3,500 words
- Systematic reviews: 5,000 words
- Theoretical analyses: 4,000 words
- Case studies: 2,500 words
- Commentaries: 400-800 words
- Book/media reviews: 3,000 words

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Graphics: *The Journal of Child Life* recommends listing tables and figures at the end of your blinded submitted manuscript to reduce the number of files being uploaded. Indicate in the body of the manuscript where each table and/or figure should be inserted. If formatting is difficult, authors are also welcome to submit graphics as separate files with these considerations:

- PDF, JPG, or PNG format preferred
- Minimum of 200 dpi resolution (300 preferred)
- RGB color mode

If you have questions about the graphic elements of your article, please consult the managing editor at journal@childlife.org.

What to Submit: When you feel that your article is ready, please upload the following files to Scholastica:

- Cover sheet with author information
- Blinded manuscript with abstract and graphics integrated
- If necessary, separate graphic/artwork files
- Signed Submission and Copyright Agreement Letter (available for download on the ACLP website)

Deadlines: *The Journal of Child Life* reviews submissions on a rolling basis as they are received. Due to space limitations, the editorial panel does not guarantee placement of an accepted article in a particular issue and may at its discretion hold an article publication in a future issue. Issues of *The Journal of Child Life* are published biannually in March and September of each year.

What happens next? After you submit your article to *The Journal of Child Life*, the managing editor will review the manuscript to ensure that all the basic submission and style requirements have been met. Once this has been verified, the managing editor will send an email of acknowledgement to the author and pass all the files along to the executive editor for further review. The editorial team will evaluate the article, and if appropriate for the journal, will pass it along to the Journal Review Board for full review. After a period of several weeks, the executive editor will contact you with the review board's feedback and recommendations and give you further instructions on how to proceed. If the article is not deemed appropriate for the journal, you will still be contacted with feedback.

Manuscripts that undergo review are assigned one of four possible recommendations:

1. Accepted as is with only minor changes
2. Recommended for acceptance with minor revisions
3. Recommended revision/rewrite and resubmit with suggested revisions for review
4. Submission declined

Authors of those manuscripts accepted with minor revisions will have approximately two weeks to make the changes and submit the revised manuscript for publication. Authors of manuscripts that receive a recommendation to revise/rewrite and resubmit will be invited to review the suggested changes and submit an updated article at a later date. ACLP members are able to earn PDUs by reading *The Journal of Child Life* articles and successfully completing a quiz related to the content of the article. Once an article is accepted for publication, authors will be asked to write and submit five multiple choice and/or



true/false questions related to the content of the article. The author must indicate the child life domain addressed in the manuscript: Professional Responsibility (Ethics, if applicable), Assessment, or Intervention (see the exam content outline on the ACLP website for details).