

# Megan O'Connell, MS, CCLS, CEIM

## EDUCATION

- |  |             |           |
|--|-------------|-----------|
| Erikson Institute  | Chicago, IL | 2009-2011 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• MS Child Development-Child Life Specialization</li></ul> |             |           |
| University of Wisconsin-Madison  | Madison, WI | 2001-2004 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• BA in English/BA in Theatre-Acting Specialist</li></ul>  |             |           |

## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

<b>Rush University Medical Center</b>	<b>Chicago, IL</b>	<b>July 2023–Present</b>
<b><i>Family Advisory Council Liaison/Clinical Support Child Life Specialist III</i></b>		

- Provide psychosocial support and interventions for children and families in all shifts and coverage areas, inpatient and outpatient as needed.
- Collaborate with leadership team members across the hospital system to develop Family Advisory Council, membership roster, meeting content and action plans.
- Provide informal clinical leadership and support to child life team members.
- Compile quarterly reports to support ongoing funding of Family Advisory Council program.

<b>UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital - Oakland</b>	<b>Oakland, CA</b>	<b>May 2021-June 2023</b>
<b><i>Certified Child Life Specialist II- Per Diem</i></b>		

- Provide psychosocial support and interventions for children and families in all shifts and coverage areas, inpatient and outpatient as needed.
- Collaborate with hospital professionals in the UCSF system-wide pediatric pain committee, focusing on non-pharmacological pain management initiatives.
- Share experience and support team members in clinical growth.

<b>Sonoma State University</b>	<b>Rohnert Park, CA</b>	<b>November 2022-July 2023</b>
<b><i>Adjunct Professor</i></b>		

- Currently teaching the first offering of course titled: *Children's Grief and Loss*.
- Refined syllabus created by colleagues to meet the needs of a diverse student population who are preparing for many professions that work with children and families.
- Collaborate with SSU School of Education Faculty to ensure that course meets university learning standards.

<b>Erikson Institute</b>	<b>Chicago, IL</b>	<b>2017- Present</b>
<b><i>Adjunct Professor</i></b>		

- Currently teach an Integrative Seminar for advanced professionals in the Child Life Leadership and Advocacy Program.
- Developed course description and syllabus for *Grief and Loss* course to reflect ACLP education and professional competency standards.
- Past courses include: Grief and Loss for Early Childhood Professionals, Monthly Group Supervision for child life cohort and guest lectures on infant and school age child life assessment and intervention.
- Collaborate with Erikson faculty and other CCLS to develop curriculum for future course offerings.

<b>Support for Families of Children with Disabilities</b>	<b>San Francisco, CA</b>	<b>June 2020-April 2022</b>
<b><i>Child Development and Peer Group Manager</i></b>		

- Coordinate all agency support groups in English, Spanish and Cantonese.
- Manage state and federal contracts and maintain quarterly data for Peer Support Program.
- Develop curriculum and lead weekly virtual Parent and Child Interactive group; providing developmental play, guidance and support for parents and children.
- Fulfill the job duties of the Child Development Program Coordinator.
- Work with Board of Directors and community partners to develop and implement new family programs.

***Child Development Program Coordinator (January 2020-June 2020)***

- Plan, oversee, and implement activities to promote social/emotional, physical and learning needs of children and young adults in care.

Megan O'Connell, MS, CCLS, CEIM

- Ensure clear communication systems in Caregiving Program; including staff to parent, parent to staff, staff to management, etc.
- Provide oversight for Caregiving providers including scheduling, training and reflective supervision.
- Manage caregiving information for the agency, including data collection and tracking.

**Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago** **Chicago, IL** **2015- June 2019**

***Certified Child Life Specialist-Senior***

- Provide psychosocial support and interventions for children and families in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit.
- Collaborate with hospital professionals in Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Rounds and Hospital Bereavement Committee.
- Mentor and supervise child life interns and practicum students and provide weekly reflective supervision throughout experience.
- Support foundation efforts through story telling and data collections.

**Rush University Medical Center**

**Chicago, IL**

**2011-2015**

***Certified Child Life Specialist***

- Provide psychosocial support and interventions for children and families in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, General Pediatrics, and Pediatric Intensive Care Units.
- Collaborate with hospital professionals in Oncology Interdisciplinary Rounds, NICU Family Centered Care Committee and Pediatric Memorial Service Committee.
- Screen and orient Dance Movement Therapy and Counseling interns and provide weekly reflective supervision throughout experience.
- Supervise child life interns on rotations in all inpatient areas.

***Child Life Intern (2010-2011)***

- Independently developed and implemented programming for Neonatal Intensive Care Unit including family/sibling support, direct patient care and special events.
- Provided support and education for patients and families in both inpatient and outpatient areas, such as Radiology, Dialysis, Neurology, General Pediatrics, PICU, NICU, and Emergency Dept.
- Developed skills in documentation in EPIC system and utilized department spreadsheets to produce workflow analysis of NICU program.

**Gymboree Play and Music**

**Chicago, IL/Madison, WI**

**2005-2009**

***Site Manager (One site 2007-2008/ Two sites 2008-2009)***

- Taught art, music, Baby Signs and core classes for children ages 0-5 and their caregivers.
- Trained and fostered development of assistant managers, teachers, and support staff.
- Wrote and implemented daily staff meetings, training seminars, and coaching sessions.
- Designed class schedules for each center based on customer feedback, staff availability, and the business needs of the center.
- Orchestrated involvement in charity events, community celebrations and national organizations such as the March of Dimes.

***Training Coordinator (2006-2009)***

- Prepared and implemented new corporate curriculum roll-outs and current lesson plans.
- Focused on employee development, giving recommendations for growth according to the current business needs.
- Led monthly group interviews and provide feedback to Franchisees and Site Managers for hiring of new employees.
- Coordinated and facilitated all new hire training, paperwork and integration into class schedules.

***Regional Trainer (2006-2009)***

- Ensured maintenance of Gymboree brand quality and standards in staff performance and programming for three Chicago locations.
- Collaborated with International Regional Trainers to update curriculum and materials.
- Offered training services to all Franchisees in the Chicago Region.

Megan O'Connell, MS, CCLS, CEIM

**RECENT PRESENTATIONS/LECTURES**

"Partners in Play: Supporting Flow and the Play Cycle in Hospital Settings"  
Chicagoland Association of Child Life Professionals September 2024

"What You Say Matters"  
Rush University Medical Center September 2023

"It Came Out of COVID-19" Panel Facilitator  
Association of Child Life Professionals National Conference May 2022

*"Going Big When You Can't Go Home. Large-scale Therapeutic Interventions for School Aged Patients"*  
National Child Life Conference May 2015  
Association of Child Life Professionals National Conference May 2020

*"What is your LGBTQ IQ?"*  
Association of Child Life Professionals National Conference May 2017  
Carle Hospital Pediatric Conference Oct 2017  
Chicagoland Association of Child Life Professionals Conference March 2018  
Association of Child Life Professionals National Conference May 2020

*"Keeping Play in the Forefront of Child Life Practice in Critical Care"*  
Association of Child Life Professionals National Conference April 2019

*"De-escalation for Families and Patients in Crisis"*  
Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago February 2018

*"Supporting Grieving Children"*  
Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago March 2017 and March 2018

*"Certified Child Life Specialists in the PICU"*  
Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago July 2017, March 2018 and March 2019

*"How to Talk to Children about Death"*  
Radio Interview WBEZ June 2017

*"Talking with Children When a Parent is Ill"*  
Palliative Care Regional Fellows Conference May 2017, May 2018 and May 2019

*"Coping and Comfort: Best Practices for the Critically Ill Patient"*  
Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago March 2017

*"Mandalas for Reflection and Relaxation" and "Guided Imagery for the Bedside Nurse"*  
Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago February 2016 and July 2016

*"Working with Infants and Toddlers in the Hospital Setting", "Infant States and Cues", "Infant and Toddler Interventions"*  
Erikson Institute September 2014 and September 2015

*"Healing Wounds Inside and Out: Attempting to Heal the Patient, the Family and the Multidisciplinary team"*  
The Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare Leader Training October 2014  
Rush University Medical Center Schwartz Rounds July 2014

*"Preschool and School Age Development" "Play and Issues of Hospitalization"*  
Erikson Institute October 2013

**PUBLICATION**

Badke, C.M., Essner, B.S., O'Connell, M. and Malakooti, M. *"An Innovative Virtual Reality Experience in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit: A Pilot Study"* Pediatric Critical Care Medicine 2019

Megan O'Connell, MS, CCLS, CEIM

**COMMITTEES/ORGANIZATIONAL INVOLVEMENT**

Association of Child Life Professionals

Association Member 2011-Present

Conference Planning Chair 2023

Conference Planning Chair-Elect 2022

National Conference Planning Committee 2020-2023

Abstract Review Committee 2017-2019

Chicagoland Association of Child Life Professionals

Association Member 2011-Present

Board Member: Nomination Committee Chair 2014-2015

Miraloma Cooperative Nursery School

Board Member: Parent Education Coordinator 2021-2023

San Francisco Council of Parent Participation Nursery Schools

Board Member: Event Coordinator 2022-2023

Midwest Conference Planning Committee

Lurie Children's Hospital Representative 2016

Families Together Cooperative Preschool

Board Member: Social Committee and Fundraising Event Chair 2012 and 2013

Comer Children's Hospital Chicago

Playroom Volunteer 2008-2009