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**Date: 01/24/2014**

**From:**

**Casey Davis BS, CCLS**

**Child Life Specialist**

**McKay Dee Hospital**

**4401 Harrison Blvd.**

**Ogden, UT 84403**

**To whom it may concern,**

**My name is Casey Davis, and I am the full time Child Life Specialist here at McKay Dee Hospital. For the past seven years in this role, I have had the awesome opportunity to of making the hospital experience less stressful for children and families in a variety of different ways. As a former WSU graduate, I am thankful for the good education I received, and am pleased to be in a position where I’m able to make a difference in our community every single day.**

**I am writing to propose implementation of the course “Children and Families in the Medical Setting” (CHF 4450). The purpose for this request is two-fold: First, there have been some recent changes made to the National Child Life Certification requirements. Every candidate is required to complete a 480 hour internship. This was always required, but they recently added the stipulation that the internship now must be unpaid. Secondly, they have required as of September 2012, that every candidate have at least one passing Child Life course on their college transcript in order to be eligible to sit for the certification examination.**

**Previously, McKay Child Life department has been willing to hire candidates who have EITHER the National Child Life certification OR the National Family Life Educator certification. This meant that Family Life Practicum students were a good fit for the Child Life department. However, starting in June of 2012, McKay Dee Hospital Child Life Department has become standardized with the rest of Intermountain Healthcare in obtaining the National Child Life Certification, and has since made this certification a requirement in order to obtain employment as a Child Life Specialist.**

**Adding this Child Life course, and making the 480 hour cooperative work experience available, puts these Family Studies students who wish to pursue a career in Child Life in the position to do so following graduation from the Family Studies Program. Making this change also allows us at McKay to maintain the current partnership that already exists with Intermountain to mentor students from the Family Studies department.**

**Weber State University has played an important role for the Child Life Program here at McKay, as three of our four current staff members are WSU alumni. One of my passions over the last few years has been to grow this program, and I would love to continue doing so with our own community members if at all possible. I am proud to be from Ogden, Utah and I am proud to have a great education system in place in our own back yard. Your consideration in this matter is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns I am happy to further the discussion with this committee at any time.**

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**Sincerely,**

**Casey L. Davis BS, CCLS**

**Child Life Specialist**

**4401 Harrison Blvd.  
 Ogden, UT 84403**

**801-387-4226**

**casey.davis@imail.org**