
CARISSA HOWARD

Assistant Professor | Certified Child Life Specialist | Clinical Instructor | Certified Passenger Safety Technician

Education and Training

- Master of Science: Child Life Specialist** **2008**
Loma Linda University Loma Linda, CA, USA
Specialized coursework in Child Development, Play Therapy, Cultural Studies, Group Therapy. 600 hour child life internship focusing on clinic-based care and interventions and also perinatal maternal care and case management.
- Bachelor of Arts: Sociology** **2002**
Azusa Pacific University Azusa, CA USA
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Experience

- Assistant Professor** **06/2018 to Current**
Azusa Pacific University **Azusa, CA**
Teach undergraduate and graduate level classes for the Psychology Department and Masters in Child Life program. Mentor students. Create and implement a Child Life program for Pomona Valley Hospital and Medical Center. Provide Child Life services for pediatric unit, NICU, out-patient surgery and orthopedic clinic. Supervise Child Life practicum students at Pomona Valley.
Courses Taught:
 - PCLS 521 Introduction to Child Life
 - PCLS 522 Therapeutic Interventions and Play Techniques
 - PCLS 524 Adolescent Development
 - PCLS 531 Ethics, Diversity, and Professional Issues
 - PCLS 542 Practicum in Child Life
 - PCLS 542 Internship in Child Life
 - PSYC 432 Psychosocial Interventions in Pediatric Health CareClass Design
Designed online synchronous version of PCLS 531: Ethics, Diversity, and Professional Issues
- Child Life Specialist** **09/2016 to 05/2018**
Trinity Kid's Care **Cerritos, CA**
Provided developmentally appropriate activities and interventions for pediatric palliative care patients. Provided weekly opportunities for sensory exploration, legacy building, and family partnerships.
- Child Life Specialist** **10/2007 to 06/2018**
Loma Linda University Children's Hospital **Loma Linda, CA**
Supported pediatric patients and their families in an Emergency Department setting by providing developmentally appropriate procedural teachings, procedural and diagnosis support and therapeutic bedside interventions to create normalcy and eliminate fear. Provided teaching and training for Child Life interns and facilitated opportunities for building skills and hands-on interventions.
- Perinatal Health Specialist** **06/2008 to 03/2009**
Loma Linda University Medical Center - Murrieta **Loma Linda, CA**
Collected pertinent information from expecting mothers and provided them with necessary resources, education, and support for a successful and healthy pregnancy. Initiated plans of care based on patient assessments and offered appropriate interventions and follow up.
- Director of Children's Ministries** **08/2004 to 10/2008**

Baseline Community Church**Claremont, CA**

Designed engaging environments and weekly programming for children ages 0-11 years old. Created safe and stimulating classroom spaces. Trained and equipped teachers and volunteers to lead children's classes and activities at weekly services, special events and annual activities. Taught weekly lessons for children ages 2-11.

Child Life Specialist**01/2004 to 08/2004****Garden Grove Hospital****Garden Grove, CA**

Developed and implemented a Child Life program at a new sub-acute pediatric facility. Provided daily therapeutic interventions for patients and their families. Created weekly and monthly care plans and reviewed goals for patient progress and improvement.

Publications

Guest Blogger: "Application Advice", Captivated by Child Life Blog, September 2018.

Howard, C. (2019). The Opioid Crisis: An Interprofessional Response. Child Life Bulletin, Spring 2019.

Howard, C. (2020). Pause . . . The Impact of Covid-19", Child Life Bulletin, Summer 2020.

Presentations

Guest Bubbler: Bigger Than Bubbles Podcast, April 15, 2019

Azusa Pacific University's Annual Interprofessional Series Panelist: Opioid Crisis: An interprofessional response, Oct, 2019.

CACLP Annual Conference Presenter: "Confessions of a Burnt-Out Child Life Specialist", Nov, 2019.

Additional Activities and Honors

Certified Child Life Specialist (CCLS), June 2010 - current

Member of The Association for Child Life Professionals (ACLP)

Loma Linda University Children's Hospital Good Samaritan Award recipient, 2010

Home Gardens Academy Volunteer of the Year, 2017

100 Mile Club Head Coach, 2016 - current

Service/Mission trips: Guatemala (1997, 1998, 2000, 2006, 2007), India (2001), Cambodia (2002) and Kenya (2005).

APU Interprofessional Education (IPE) Planning Committee: 2018-current

Certified Passenger Safety Technician: January 2019 - current

Association of Child Life Professionals, Membership Advisory Group: 2019 - current

APU Child Life Program Discipleship Group Leader, 2020

Con conversationally fluent in Spanish