SYDNEY GARCIA

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Caring and compassionate Child Life graduate student experienced in working with children and teens with diverse abilities. Aiming to utilize my knowledge and skills to assist in meeting the psychosocial needs of patients and families as a future Certified Child Life Specialist.

EDUCATION

Master of Science in Child Life Candidate — **Anticipated Graduation Dec 2026**
Texas Woman's University | Denton, TX, Virtual
GPA 3.81

Bachelor of Business Administration in Management — **May 2021**
University of Houston | Houston, TX
GPA 4.0

CHILD LIFE PRACTICUM

Child Life Practicum Student — **Sep 2025- Dec 2025**
Child Life Connection

- Virtually shadowed Certified Child Life Specialists working in NICU, PICU, ED, Hematology/Oncology, Burn, Medical-Surgical and Outpatient Units as well as in Medical Camps and CACs
- Practiced assessing developmental needs, prioritization, and creating therapeutic activity plans
- Supported children aged 7-12 who had experienced loss through therapeutic activities and group discussions as part of my practicum experience serving as a grief camp counselor

WORK EXPERIENCE

Hospital Programs Manager — **Sep 2026- Present**
Ronald McDonald House Charities- Children's Memorial Hermann

- Manages the daily operations of Ronald McDonald House family rooms and lounges serving parents and family members of children in the NICU, PICU, and PHICU

Special Needs Caregiver — **May 2024- Aug 2026**
Houston's First Baptist

- Guided children and teens with special needs through lessons and activities individualized to their cognitive and physical abilities
- Collaborated with parents, ministry staff and volunteers to better understand how to support each child's unique developmental and behavioral needs
- Responded calmly to behavioral challenges to support emotional regulation

Preschool Assistant — **Sep 2026- Present**
Houston's First Baptist

- Led weekday and Sunday school classes and activities for children aged 0-6
- Served as the primary point of contact for volunteers and preschool staff questions/assistance
- Assisted in training and managed scheduling of 70+ volunteers

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Camp Counselor — **Jun 2026- Jul 2026**
Camp For All 2 U

- Facilitated adaptive summer camp activities for children with diverse medical needs at three Texas Children's Hospital locations.

Child Life Volunteer — **Feb 2024- Oct 2024**
Children's Memorial Hermann

- Assisted in normalizing the hospital environment by engaging pediatric patients and their families in developmentally appropriate play and activities