

Stephanie Atencio Whitten, MS, CCLS
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Human Development and Family Science
College of Family and Consumer Sciences
University of Georgia

Education:

Master of Science in Human Environmental Sciences

The University of Alabama, May 2015

Major: Human Development and Family Studies

Thesis Topic: *Child Life iPad Distraction: A Psychosocial Tool for Children Receiving an Injection*

Bachelor of Science in Human Environmental Sciences

The University of Alabama, May 2013

Major: Human Development and Family Studies

Concentration: Child Life

Certification:

Youth Mental Health First Aid

National Council for Mental Wellbeing, October 2024 – present

BLS, Basic Life Support, July 2015 – present

American Heart Association

CCLS, Certified Child Life Specialist, #25877, August 2013 – present

Association of Child Life Professionals

Employment:

University of Georgia

Clinical Assistant Professor, Child Life Clinical Coordinator, August 2022 – present

Appointment Assignment: 87.5% teaching; 9.5% administration, 3% service

Department of Human Development and Family Science

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

Child Life Specialist II – PRN, October 2022 – September 2024

Secondary Facility Dog Handler, February 2021 – November 2021

Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center (Inpatient Oncology)

Child Life Specialist II, February 2018 – November 2021

Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center (Inpatient Oncology)

Neurology/Neurosurgery/Epilepsy Monitoring Unit

Child Life Specialist I, May 2016 – January 2018
Neurology/Neurosurgery/Epilepsy Monitoring Unit

The University of Alabama

Adjunct Instructor, August 2015 – July 2022
Department of Human Development and Family Studies

Graduate Teaching and Research Assistant, August 2013 – May 2015
Department of Human Development and Family Studies

Children’s of Mississippi

Child Life Specialist, July 2015 – April 2016
Pediatric Emergency Department

Teaching:

University of Georgia

Course	Level	Semester/Year	Total Enrollment	<u>Weighted Mean Student Evaluation (1-5 scale)</u>
HDFS 4830E/6830E: Grief, Loss, and Bereavement	UG/GR	Summer 2024	37	4.79
HDFS 4140E/6140E: Medical Terminology for the Child Life Profession*	UG/GR	Summer 2024	10	4.89
HDFS 7120: Problems in HDFS (Child Life Practicum)	GR	Summer 2024	3	N/A
HDFS 4900S/6900S: More than a Four-Legged Friend: The Benefits of Animal-Assisted Therapy*	UG/GR	Spring 2024	39	4.7
HDFS 4910/6910: Early and Middle Childhood Development	UG/GR	Spring 2024	26	4.67
HDFS 6820: Child Life Interventions	UG/GR	Spring 2024	4	5.0
HDFS 3900: Prenatal and Infant Development**	UG	Fall 2023	42	4.9
HDFS 4810/6810: Hospitalized Child and Family	UG/GR	Fall 2023	75	4.88
HDFS 4830S/6830S: Grief, Loss, and Bereavement	UG/GR	Fall 2023	41	4.92

HDFS 7120: Problems in HDFS (Child Life Practicum)	GR	Fall 2023	3	N/A
HDFS 4830E/6830E: Grief, Loss, and Bereavement	UG/GR	Summer 2023	36	4.79
HDFS 6140E: Medical Terminology for the Child Life Profession*	GR	Summer 2023	7	N/A
HDFS 4820/6820: Child Life Interventions	UG/GR	Spring 2023	30	4.96
HDFS 4900S/6900S: More than a Four-Legged Friend: The Benefits of Animal-Assisted Therapy*	UG/GR	Spring 2023	31	4.89
HDFS 5910: Applied Community Internship in HDFS	UG	Spring 2023	19	4.78
HDFS 3900: Prenatal and Infant Development	UG	Fall 2022	43	4.97
HDFS 4810/6810: Hospitalized Child and Family	UG/GR	Fall 2022	75	4.98
HDFS 4830S/6830S: Grief, Loss, and Bereavement	UG/GR	Fall 2022	35	4.98

E = Online, S = Service-learning, * = Course developed, ** = Co-taught with PhD student

The University of Alabama

Course	Level	Semester/Year
HD 203 (O): Medical Terminology	UG	Fall 2015 – Summer 2022
HD 401 (W, O): Cultural Influences on Children, Youth, and Families	UG	Fall 2016 – Spring 2019

W = Writing Course, O = Online

Service (Professional):

Academic Best Practice Committee, February 2024 – present
Child Life Academic Society

Bulletin Committee – Editor, June 2023 – present
Association of Child Life Professionals

Education and Training Committee, June 2023 – present
Association of Child Life Professionals

Abstract Reviewer for the 2025 Child Life Conference, August 2024 – October 2024
Association of Child Life Professionals

Membership Criteria Committee, October 2022 – September 2023
Child Life Academic Society

Mentorship Program – Professional Mentor, January 2020 – June 2023
Association of Child Life Professionals

Bulletin Committee – Reviewer, June 2022 – May 2023
Association of Child Life Professionals

Child Life Huddle Co-Coordinator, 2021
Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta

Bereavement Committee (Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center), 2020 – 2021
Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta

Beyond the Classroom Committee, 2020 – 2021
Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta

Child Life Certification Commission – Exam Item Writer, June 2018 – June 2020
Association of Child Life Professionals

Somatic Symptom Related Disorders (SSRD) Guideline Committee, 2019
Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta

Patient and Family Experience Council, 2018
Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta

Internship and Practicum Committee, 2017 – 2021
Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta

Child Life Intern Supervisor, 2017 – 2020
Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta

Comfort Promise Initiative Committee, 2017 – 2018
Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta

Service (Departmental):
Co-Advisor, Child Life Organization, August 2024 – present
University of Georgia

HDFS Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, September 2022 – present
University of Georgia

Administrative Associate Search Committee, July – August 2023
University of Georgia

Conference Sponsor/Vendor (Beyond the Classroom Student Seminar), 2022 – 2023
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

Scholarly Presentations (International):

Whitten, S., Bales, D. & Thompson, C. (May 2024) *It Takes Two: Academic and Clinical Approaches to Building Students' Self-Reflective Practice*. Presentation at the 2024 Association of Child Life Professionals Conference, San Antonio, TX.

Davies, K. & Whitten, S. (May 2024) *Paws for Reflection: Exploring Education and Training Pathways of Certified Child Life Specialist Facility Dog Handlers in Pediatric Healthcare*. Poster Presentation at the 2024 Association of Child Life Professionals Conference, San Antonio, TX.

Simpson, H. & Whitten, S. (May 2022) *This Couldn't Have Been an Email: The Benefits of a Daily Team Huddle*. Poster Presentation at the 40th Annual Child Life Conference, Association of Child Life Professionals, National Harbor, MD.

Scholarly Presentations (Regional):

Whitten, S. & Goldstein, E. (July 2023) *Designing and Implementing an Animal-Assisted Interventions Course with a Service-Learning Requirement*. Presented at the 2023 Southeastern Association of Child Life Professionals Conference, Auburn, AL.

Whitten, S. & Westbrook, J. (October 2020) *Assessment of Understanding Following Diagnosis Education*. Presented at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA.

Whitten, S. & Rivera, A. (August 2020) *Assessment of Self-Care Practices*. Presented at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA.

Whitten, S. & Sherrill, L. (January 2020) *Introduction to Child Life Services at the Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center*. Presented at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA.

Whitten, S. PEDS 101. (November 2019) Presented at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA.

Whitten, S. & Garrett, F. (October 2019) *Non-Pharmacological Pain Management Interventions*. Presented at Beyond the Classroom at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA.

Whitten, S. PEDS 101. (May 2019) Presented at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA.

Whitten, S. & Carrick, L. (October 2017) *Therapeutic Interventions*. Presented at Beyond the Classroom at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA.

Atencio, S., Burns-Nader, S., Hernandez-Reif, M., & Tucker, M. (April 2015) *Child Life iPad Distraction: A Psychosocial Tool for Children Receiving an Injection*. Poster presented at the 16th Annual Rural Health Conference, The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL.

Atencio, S., Burns-Nader, S., Hernandez-Reif, M., & Tucker, M. (April 2015) *Child Life iPad Distraction: A Psychosocial Tool for Children Receiving an Injection*. Poster presented at the 7th Annual CCHS Research and Scholarly Activity Day, The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL.

Journal Publications:

Burns-Nader, S., **Whitten, S.**, Davis, F., Lacour, W., Chavez, M., Bodden, T., & Hudson, C. (2017). Then and now: Examining memories of pediatric experiences and their influence on opinions about healthcare as an adult. *Journal of Human Sciences and Extension*, 5(1), 20-34.

Burns-Nader, S., **Atencio, S.**, & Chavez, M. (2016). Computer tablet distraction in children receiving an injection. *Pain Medicine*, 17(3), 590-596. doi: 10.1111/pme.12877.

Research in Progress:

Whitten, S., & Burns-Nader, S. (Recruitment). A Mixed-Methods Convergent Investigation of the Inclusive Teaching Experiences of Child Life Instructors and Students.

Davies, K. & **Whitten, S.** (Write up). Paws for Reflection: Exploring Education and Training Pathways of Certified Child Life Specialist Facility Dog Handlers in Pediatric Healthcare.

Media:

Association of Child Life Professionals. (2024, August 14). *Day in the Life of a Child Life Professor*. Retrieved from <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1039531643871614> and <https://www.facebook.com/reel/808139418195772>.

Grace, C. & Wolff, K. (Hosts). (2023, September 26). Diane Bales and **Stephanie Whitten** (Episode 56) [Audio podcast episode] EdsUP! Sound Cloud. https://soundcloud.com/edsup_podcast/edsup-episode-56-diane-bales-and-stephannie-whitten

Guest Lectures and Presentations:

Eligibility Assessment, October 9, 2024
UGA Child Life Organization, University of Georgia

Transition to Parenthood; Pregnancy and Childbirth, March 20, 2024
HDFS 4860, University of Georgia

Child Life Specialist Panel, February 7, 2024
HDFS, University of Georgia

Hospitalization in Adolescence, November 9, 2023
HDFS 3700, University of Georgia

Professional Development, September 28, 2023
UGA Child Life Organization, University of Georgia

Transition to Parenthood; Pregnancy and Childbirth, March 22, 2023
HDFS 4860, University of Georgia

Parenting and Child Guidance; Theories, January 18, 2023
HDFS 4860, University of Georgia

Therapeutic Relationships, August 31, 2022
First Year Odyssey, University of Georgia

Child Life Professional Issues and Research, August 17, 2022
HDFS 8910, University of Georgia

Awards/Recognition:

Facilitator for Child Life Clinical Intern Supervisor Course, September 2024 – present
Association of Child Life Professionals (ACLP)

**Approached and selected by ACLP*

Phi Upsilon Omicron Induction Ceremony Faculty Panel, October 2024
University of Georgia
**Approached and invited by HDFS/FACS students*

SEC Faculty Travel Grant Program, August 2024 – July 2025
Office of Research, University of Georgia/SECU

Academic Affairs Faculty Symposium, March 2024
Teaching Academy, University of Georgia

Career Advocate, January 2024
Career Center, University of Georgia

Student Career Success Influencer Award 2024, January 2024
Career Center, University of Georgia

Thank-a-Teacher, 2023 – 2024
Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Georgia

Teaching Academy Early Career Fellow, 2023 – 2024
Teaching Academy, University of Georgia

Professor's Dinner, October 2023
Zeta Tau Alpha, University of Georgia

Master's Thesis Committees (served as chair):

Kelbe Davies (2024) *Paws for Reflection: Exploring Education and Training Pathways of Certified Child Life Specialist Facility Dog Handlers in Pediatric Healthcare.*

Master’s Clinical Project Committees (served as committee member):

Olivia Miller (2024) *Let’s Talk about Sickle Cell Disease.*

Erin Quinn (2024) *All About the NICU: A Resource for Preschool-Aged Siblings of NICU Patients.*

Megan Bright (2023) *Nonpharmacological Pain Management Education for Pediatric Health Care Providers.*

Carey Hotaling (2023) *Individualized Coping Plan: A Guide for Middle School Students Who Have Experienced a Family Death.*

Kaylee Wells (2023) *Getting Ready for my Check-Up at The Stephanie V. Blank Center for Safe and Healthy Children.*

Professional Affiliations:

Professional Member, October 2023 – present
Child Life Academic Society

Professional Member, July 2022 – present
Southeastern Association of Child Life Professionals

Professional Member, August 2013 – present
Association of Child Life Professionals

Professional Member, July 2022 – July 2024
Florida Association of Child Life Professionals

Founders Council, July 2022 – September 2023
Child Life Academic Society