

# Stephanie Atencio Whitten, MS, CCLS

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## EDUCATION

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- M.S.** 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*
- B.S.** The University of Alabama, May 2013  
Major: Human Development and Family Studies  
Concentration: Child Life

## CERTIFICATIONS

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- CCLS** Certified Child Life Specialist, #25877, August 2013 – present  
Association of Child Life Professionals
- BLS** Basic Life Support, July 2015 – present  
American Heart Association

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### University of Georgia

**Clinical Assistant Professor, Child Life Clinical Coordinator**, August 2022 – present  
Appointment Assignment: 87.5% teaching; 12.5% administration  
Department of Human Development and Family Science

### Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

**Child Life Specialist II – PRN**, October 2022 – present

**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 EXPERIENCE

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### University of Georgia

<b>Course</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Semester/Year</b>	<b>Total Enrollment</b>	<b>Weighted Mean Student Evaluation (1-5 scale)</b>
HDFS 3900: Prenatal and Infant Development**	UG	Fall 2023	42	4.90
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

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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**Professional Member**, October 2023 – present  
Child Life Academic Society

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

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

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

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

## SERVICE

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

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

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

**Conference Sponsor and Vendor (Beyond the Classroom Student Seminar)**, 2022 – 2023  
Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta

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

**Mentorship Program – 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

**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

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

## **SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES**

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### **Presentations**

**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.

**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.

Simpson, H. & **Whitten, S.** (May 2022) *This Couldn’t Have Been an Email: The Benefits of a Daily Team Huddle*. Poster Presentation at the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Child Life Conference, Association of Child Life Professionals, National Harbor, MD & Virtual, May 26-29, 2022.

**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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> Annual CCHS Research and Scholarly Activity Day, The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL.

## **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).

Burns-Nader, S., **Atencio, S.**, & Chavez, M. (2016). Computer Tablet Distraction in Children Receiving an Injection. *Pain Medicine*, 17(3), 590-595.

## **Media**

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-stephanie-whitten](https://soundcloud.com/edsup_podcast/edsup-episode-56-diane-bales-and-stephanie-whitten)

## **GUEST LECTURES**

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**Hospitalization in Adolescence**, November 9, 2023  
HDFS 3700, 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

## **AWARDS/RECOGNITION**

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**Academic Affairs Faculty Symposium**, Spring 2024  
University of Georgia

**Teaching Academy Fellow**, 2023 – 2024  
University of Georgia

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

## **CLINICAL SUPERVISION, MENTORSHIP, AND PROGRAMMING**

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**Child Life Clinical Coordinator and Mentor**, August 2022 – present  
University of Georgia

**Beyond the Classroom Committee**, 2020 – 2021  
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

## **MASTER'S THESIS COMMITTEES (served as chair)**

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**Kelbe Davies** (Ongoing) *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** (Ongoing) *Let's Talk about Sickle Cell Disease.*

**Erin Quinn** (Ongoing) *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.*