



# Child Life Development Specialist

Full Time Employee; Salaried

**DEPARTMENT:** Starlight Program

**SUPERVISOR:** Starlight Program Officer

Position Summary: As Starlight Program's Child Life Development Specialist (CLDS), you will design and facilitate age-appropriate and developmentally enriching therapeutic activities to help the children we serve adjust to various changes and transitions as they recover from the cycle of abuse and addictions alongside their mothers. You will also provide direct support to the Starlight Team by working with families to provide consistent behavior management of children in conjunction with their family values and cultural beliefs to improve family bonds and relationships. The overall goal is to provide a long-term, residential and therapeutic community for women and their children to break adverse cycles and rebuild their families.

## Essential Functions and Responsibilities

- Commit to and implement the TDARS faith-based, Christ-centered program values and statement of faith.
- Assist with facilitating healthy and positive interactions for mothers and their children in a culturally supportive way.
- Provide psychosocial and emotional support to the children through 1:1 interaction and leading weekly psycho-social, skill-building group focused on emotional regulation
- Assist with needs assessment and referrals for children in conjunction with the Starlight Recovery Team
- Assist PFC in supporting the reunification process and family visitation arrangements
- Sharing knowledge and observations during weekly team consultations with the Recovery Team as needed
- Supporting PFC as needed/assigned including but not limited to parent-bonding activities, collaborative meetings with schools and providers, and behavioral support in cottage and community settings
- Shows professional work habits by keeping spoken and written information confidential, respects others, uses time well and is dependable.
- Recognize strengths and weaknesses in children; Teach effective coping skills to children
- Foster trust and encourage children
- Assess and evaluate children to determine their therapeutic needs; Make therapeutic referrals for children when necessary
- Lead therapeutic play and creative arts activities for children
- Model and teach therapeutic play and creative arts activities for mothers
- to engage with their children
- Lead children's group sessions;
- Implement appropriate emotional outlets for children to help improve
- emotional regulation
- Identify mechanisms to improve communication between children and
- mothers
- Communicate children's needs and action plans with mothers and staff
- Assist in the reunification of women with their children
- Participates in weekly staffing meetings and assists with special projects and tasks as assigned by the supervisor
- Attends at least one training session per year on cultural competency
- Will be required to work evenings and/or weekend hours to support the success of the program
- Support families to build positive social networks.
- Collaborate with the Therapeutic Team in planning, training, retention, and providing support to participants and their children.
- Actively support a trauma informed and responsive work environment as demonstrated in the 5 core values of safety, trustworthiness, choice, collaboration, and empowerment.
- Assures adherence to COA standards for accreditation in every aspect of the program.
- Assists with research of new or existing evidenced-based programs and "best practices" in other local, state and national programs and develop plans to either model and implement or suggest elimination from recovery program offerings as appropriate.
- Assist with report preparation to the Tamassee DAR School Board of Trustees when necessary.
- Seeks to optimize use of donated and free resources.

- Help meet the quality improvement efforts of Tamassee DAR School by supporting and encouraging a culture of excellence and continual improvement.
- Performs related duties as required.

**Required Qualifications**

- Bachelor’s degree in Social Work, Human Services, or related field.
- A minimum of 5 year’s work experience directly with target population with emphasis in family systems. Prior experience in the substance use field is highly desired to include recovery advocacy experience, and/or peer support certification. Must have at least 5 years continuous recovery from a substance use disorder, if applicable.
- Knowledge of local, state and federal laws related to programming.
- Flexibility to work extended program hours, especially as seasons and service needs change.
- Must have excellent Interpersonal Skills and Collaborative Skills.
- Understanding of Cultural Competency.
- Has compassion for the population that Starlight serves and the effect addiction has on children.
- Is knowledgeable of various therapeutic methods and recognizes the best approach for each child’s individual needs.

**Supervisory Responsibility:** This position has assigned oversight of employees and volunteers of the recovery program.

**Additional Leadership Duties:**

- Serve as a member of the Recovery Program Team
- Other duties as deemed necessary by the Recovery Program Officer

**Competencies:**

1. Organizational Skills.
2. Conflict Resolution
3. Results Driven
4. Teamwork Orientation.
5. Communication Proficiency.
6. Parental Coaching/Mentoring Capacity.
7. Case and Performance Management.

**Work Environment**

This job operates in a professional office and residential environment. This role routinely uses standard office equipment such as computers, phones, photocopiers, filing cabinets and fax machines. Community-based location that serves youth, families and community members daily. Frequent contact with employees, community-based organizations, families, students, and community members. Some required travel to programming locations and community partners. A typical work schedule may include evening and weekend work.

**Physical Demands**

Involves activities that require ability to lift 30 lbs., reaching, climbing and grasping. Vocal communication is required for expressing or exchanging ideas by means of the spoken word. Hearing is required to perceive information at normal spoken word levels. Visual acuity is required for preparing and analyzing written or computer data, determining the accuracy and thoroughness of work and observing surroundings and activities. The worker is not subjected to adverse environmental conditions.

**Other Duties**

Please note this job description is not designed to cover or contain a comprehensive listing of activities, duties or responsibilities that are required of the employee for this job. Duties, responsibilities and activities may change at any time with or without notice.