

Job Description

Physical Therapist

Certification: The Physical Therapist should be a graduate of an accredited physical therapy program and hold a valid license to practice physical therapy in Indiana.

Qualifications: Previous experience with individuals with special needs preferred.

Skills & Attributes: School based physical therapy practitioners, in keeping within the score of their Practice Acts and the educational system, should possess the following skills and attributes to be effective members of the educational team:

- Knowledge of handicapping conditions of students with special needs.
- Knowledge of current federal, state and local laws and regulations
- Knowledge of major theories, treatment procedures, and research relating to special needs children.
- Selection and administration of appropriate assessment tools.
- Ability to assess the functional performances of students within their educational environment.
- Ability to participate in group decision-making during the Individualized Education Program process.
- Ability to interpret evaluation results correctly.
- Ability to plan and implement intervention strategies.
- Ability to communicate effectively (both written and orally) with educational personnel, administrators, parents, and community members.
- Ability to interpret the role of therapeutic intervention within the school setting to educational personnel, administrators, parents, and community members.
- Ability to document assessment and intervention results within the school setting in the proper manner for the school setting; and to relate this information to the educational goals of the student.
- Ability to develop, implement, evaluate, and modify activities for therapeutic intervention within the school setting

General Responsibilities:

- To provide therapy to Special Services' students as a (Job Goal) related service which is designed to maximize their potential for learning in the school environment, to maximize their ability to function in all environments, and educate them in how to maintain functional physical skills.

Specific Responsibilities: (Performance Responsibility)

- Evaluate students as prescribed by a qualified physician.
- Evaluation/programming components may include:
 - Range of motion/muscle tone/muscle strength activities
 - Balance and equilibrium activities
 - Gross motor development and progress
 - Ambulation skills (Instruction and consultation in the use of braces, wheelchairs, crutches, prosthetic appliances, and other devices used specifically for ambulation.)
 - Bracing needs
- Plan treatment programs corresponding to treatment goals.
- Provide information concerning evaluation results.
- Participate as a member of case conference and annual case review meetings.

- Make recommendations for elimination or modification of architectural barriers or accommodations.
- Coordinate integrated therapy with classroom teacher, to be incorporated into the educational program.
- Develop and present inservice training programs for Special Services staff and parents, as requested.
- Monitor and maintain therapy equipment and recommend purchase of necessary therapy and/or assistive devices.
- Consult with physician regarding the need to refer students to appropriate agencies, when in need of additional services (i.e. braces, wheelchair).
- Act as resource person for other therapists, teachers, nurses and other school personnel.
- Complete necessary reports and paperwork as required by Article 7 and Special Services, Johnson County Schools.
- Supervise student practicum affiliations and physical therapy assistant.
- Additional duties may be assigned at the discretion of the Director of Special Education and/or the Governing Board