



PHYSICAL THERAPIST

DEFINITION:

Under the supervision of the Director-Special Education, provides educationally related assessment, consultation and direct or indirect physical therapy treatment and services to identified students with special needs; attends and participates in Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and related meetings and serves a part of a multi-disciplinary team; prepares records, assessments, treatment plans, reports and billings; and performs related work as required.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES include the following. Other duties may be assigned.

- Provides direct, indirect and consultative physical therapy services based upon needs determined through established processes to students according to Individual Education Plans (IEP); identifies and evaluates physical therapy needs of students, especially related to areas of dysfunction in gross motor, sensorimotor functions and muscle strength.
- Conducts assessments of student progress on an ongoing basis and develop reports to determine need for physical therapy; observes and interviews students and parents to assess student's gross motor functions in the classroom, outdoor and in other school learning environments.
- Evaluates students using standardized tests, observation, and clinically derived surveys; assesses student needs and abilities regarding the access to educational curriculum; recommends an appropriate physical therapy program to help students meet their educational goals and prepares written evaluations.
- Consults and communicates results of evaluations and reports of physical therapy services to the educational staff, parents and other professionals and agencies concerned with the students; serves as liaison to District staff, physicians, parents, teachers and other agencies in implementing a treatment plan.
- Assists in coordinating the implementation of student's transition plan, programs, goals and outcomes with the IEP team; follow-ups, monitors and adjusts the physical therapy program as needed; re-evaluates students' individual physical therapy plan on a regular basis.
- Prepares and maintains records and reports as required for compliance with various State, federal, and administrative regulation; maintains documentation of assessments, treatments, contacts, equipment tracking, billings and daily records concerning physical therapeutic activities.
- Inventories and orders physical therapy equipment and supplies in accordance with established protocols, District policies and educational relevance; set-ups and adjusts therapeutic equipment for treatment sessions.
- Provides consultation to school personnel and families implementing physical therapy interventions; schedules appointments and meetings.
- Provides recommendations, accommodations and environmental modifications to increase accessibility to the classroom for students with special needs.
- Operates a variety of therapeutic, mobility, positioning and other equipment such as swings, bolsters, therapy balls, adapted equipment and related devices.
- Operates of a variety of office equipment, a computer and assigned software; drives a vehicle to conduct work.
- Collaborates with the transportation department in the coordination therapy equipment transportation, positioning and safety of students and functionality of safety restraints during student transport.
- Trains and provides instruction to classroom staff, parents and families concerning appropriate physical therapy adapted equipment and transferring students into equipment.
- Attends and participates in meetings, Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meetings and professional development trainings; serve on teams and committees as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS GUIDE

Knowledge of:

- **Physical therapy strategies, techniques and methodologies in educational settings.**
- **Neurology, anatomy, neuroanatomy and physiology.**
- **Applicable laws and regulations concerning medical records, physical therapeutic services and IDEA.**
- **Applicable sections of the State Education Code and special education relative to physical therapy services.**
- **Evaluation techniques for student assessment of gross motor ability, safety and ambulation.**
- **Operation of a variety of therapeutic, mobility, positioning and medical equipment.**
- **Physical therapy assessment tools and techniques.**
- **Operation of a variety of office equipment, a computer and assigned software.**
- **Methods, materials and equipment used to alter existing or fabricate specialized therapy equipment.**
- **Oral and written communication skills.**
- **Record-keeping, filing, research and report preparation techniques.**
- **Interpersonal skills using tact, patience and courtesy.**
- **Typical cognitive, sensory, social, emotional and physical development in children.**
- **Techniques used in the assessment of children with disabilities.**
- **Educational and development needs of children with specific disabilities.**
- **Health and safety regulations.**
- **Proper lifting techniques.**
- **Public speaking and presentation techniques.**

Ability to:

- **Provide assessment, consultation, direct and indirect physical therapy treatment and services to students with special needs using evidence based practices.**
- **Prepare assessment and related reports.**
- **Develop and compose accurate physical therapy treatment plans and billing records.**
- **Communicate effectively orally and in writing.**
- **Establish and maintain cooperative and effective working relationships with others.**
- **Monitor and evaluate physical therapy equipment needs.**
- **Prepare written evaluations and review medical and therapy reports.**
- **Train and provide work direction others.**
- **Work effectively with district personal, community representatives, and interdisciplinary teams.**
- **Read, interpret, apply and explain rules, regulations, policies and procedures.**
- **Maintain current knowledge of related technological advances and other matters.**
- **Operate of a variety of therapeutic, mobility, positioning and medical equipment.**
- **Provide accommodations and environmental modifications to increase accessibility to the classroom for students with special needs.**
- **Operate of a variety of office equipment, a computer and assigned software.**
- **Maintain records and files.**
- **Prioritize and schedule work.**
- **Meet schedules and timelines.**
- **Observe health and safety regulations.**
- **Make oral presentations to large and small groups.**
- **Work independently with little direction.**

EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE:

Any combination equivalent to: master's degree from an approved physical therapy program consistent with licensing requirements and one year working experience as a licensed physical therapist. Experience working with children and youth with special needs is preferred.

LICENSES AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

- Valid California Physical Therapist License.
- Successful passage of the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) exam.
- Valid First Aid and CPR certification.
- Valid California Class C driver's license.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS:

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

- Dexterity of hands and fingers to operate therapy equipment.
- Seeing to monitor children and read a variety of materials.
- Reaching overhead, above the shoulders and horizontally to utilize therapy equipment.
- Sitting or standing for extended periods of time while working with students.
- Bending at the waist, kneeling or crouching to assist students.
- Hearing and speaking to exchange information.
- Pushing or pulling wheelchairs, mobility and other therapy equipment.
- Lifting, carrying, pushing or pulling objects up to 50 pounds; occasional lifting, carrying, pushing or pulling heavy objects up 75 pounds with assistance.
- Walking to and from designated locations.

WORK ENVIRONMENT:

Indoor office/classroom and outdoor environment. The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions. The noise level in the work environment is usually moderate. Hazards include:

- Potential exposure to dissatisfied or abusive individuals.

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