



Job Description

Title: EC - Physical Therapist

Reports to: Director of Exceptional Children

Terms of Employment: 10 Months

Salary Step: To be determined

Qualifications:

- Graduation from an accredited Physical Therapy program
- Certification to practice in North Carolina as evidenced by current licensure as a physical therapist by the North Carolina Board of Physical Therapy Examiners
- Preference given to applicants with school-based and/or pediatric experience, but new graduates are welcome and encouraged to apply

Overview:

- Physical Therapist will be treating and evaluating pediatric patients with ages ranging from 3 years to 21 years old
- Physical Therapist will be mentored by a current Physical Therapist working with Harnett County Schools (HCS)
- Travel between multiple sites (schools/daycares/homes) to work with students; each day is 8 hours (typical work hours are 8am-4pm)
- Work towards goals that are educationally relevant and/or related to student's access to their school environment
- Work with a multidisciplinary team such as teachers, Occupational Therapists, Speech Therapists, Deaf/Hard of Hearing teacher, orthotics staff, equipment vendor staff, etc.

Nature of Work: The school physical therapist, as a member of the educational team, supports the education of students suspected of and/or diagnosed with a disability in their least restrictive environment. He or she develops, implements, and coordinates a physical therapy program within the local educational agency (LEA) with the goal of helping all students safely access and be successful within their educational environments as outlined under current IDEA legislation. The school physical therapist, though working as a team member serving students, is autonomous in applying principles of physical therapy and is responsible for working within the North Carolina Physical Therapy Practice Act, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and other legal mandates.

Responsibilities and Expectations Include (but are not limited to):

- Adherence to professional, ethical and legal standards of practice
- Evaluation of students using appropriate tests/measures, professional observation, and supplementary information from records and other agencies
- Analyzing assessment findings within the context of the educational setting
- Use of effective clinical decision making to develop student goals as part of an IEP team
- Developing and implementing educationally appropriate intervention strategies and accommodations within the school setting
- Ongoing consultation and open communication with teachers, parents, administration, and other school staff as appropriate
- Maintaining thorough documentation records in accordance with local policies and the NC Physical Therapy Practice Act
- Evaluating and reporting on student progress at designated intervals
- Planning for student transitions - between schools, from school to community, and to function independent from therapy service when targeted outcomes are achieved
- Educating parents, school staff, and others on the effects of disabling conditions and the role of physical therapy as a related service in the education setting
- Minimizing risk to self and others by safely executing all job responsibilities and identifying potentially unsafe situations

- Using proper technique to physically lift and/or transfer students or equipment weighing up to 50 pounds; training classroom staff on proper technique for transferring students and use of adaptive equipment
- Assessing need for, recommending, and helping to obtain the appropriate assistive technology and durable medical equipment needed for mobility and/or function at school
- Facilitating positive outcomes and actively contributing during IEP and departmental meetings
- Demonstrating teamwork by effectively communicating with parents, students, administrators, school staff, and (as appropriate) community professionals
- Providing educational opportunities for students of physical therapy (must have greater than 1 full year of work experience to be a clinical instructor)
- Planning, coordinating, and providing training and continuing education (formally and informally) to parents and school staff

DISCLAIMER: The above statements are intended to describe the general nature and level of work being performed by individuals assigned to this job. They are not intended to be an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, duties, and skills required of the position. All employees may have other duties assigned at any time.