

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

DEFINITION

Under direction, to plan, develop, and perform occupational therapy for physically disabled children up to age 21; and to do related work as required. This is a specialized classification for the development and performance of occupational therapy for children covered by California Children Services benefits.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This is a specialized classification for the development and performance of occupational therapy for children covered by California Children Services benefits.

REPORTS TO

Health Officer.

CLASSIFICATIONS SUPERVISED

None

EXAMPLES OF IMPORTANT AND ESSENTIAL DUTIES *(The following is used as a partial description and is not restrictive as to duties required.)*

Plans and carries out a full range of occupational therapy involving specialized skills for neuro-muscular, orthopedically, and physically disabled children; Interviews patients and parents; Evaluates patient's physical condition utilizing ROM, MMT oral motor leading, reflex testing, perceptual, developmental, sensory, ADL, prosthetic; Reviews clinical records, medical prescriptions, and/or physician referral to develop treatment plans; Observes patient reactions and notes changes; Adopts and applies treatment procedures for severely disabled children; Instructs parents in the proper use of wheelchairs, braces, and prosthetic devices and appliances and orthotics; Modifies treatment plans in response to significant changes in patient's condition; Devises or adapts durable medical equipment as required, orthotics and splinting; Maintains treatment records; Consults with others involved with patient treatment to maintain consistency; e.g. transportation, school staff, physicians; Coordinate and conduct Medical Therapy Conference (clinic) and attend IEP's; May coordinate and employ several treatment approaches to accomplish treatment objectives; Instructs school staff, families and others in patient positioning for therapy treatment; May work at different sites in the County.

TYPICAL PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

Sit for periods of time; frequently stand and walk; special manual dexterity and eye-hand coordination for application of physical therapy; use proper positioning and movement techniques for disabled persons; lift and move object weighing up to 50 pounds; corrected hearing and vision to normal range; verbal communication; use of office equipment including computers, telephones, calculators, copiers, and FAX.

TYPICAL WORKING CONDITIONS

Work is usually performed in a clinic environment; continuous contact with staff and the public. May be required to work with and have exposure to potentially infectious and disorderly patients.

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MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

Principles and practices of occupational therapy, especially for disabled children; kinesiology and modalities.

Neuro-muscular function and dysfunction; physiology and skeletal anatomy.

Construction and use of orthopedic appliances and durable medical equipment.

Psychological problems of persons with disabilities and their efforts on the family.

Working knowledge of growth and development of normal and handicapped children and basic knowledge of cerebral palsy.

Ability to:

Plan therapy treatments and make modifications as a person progresses.

Evaluate the condition and progress of patients with regard to occupational therapy needs.

Develop therapeutic techniques and devices.

Evaluate the effectiveness of occupational therapy techniques.

Coordinate different treatment approaches to accomplish objectives.

Instruct others in body positioning for therapy treatments

Coordinate treatment plans with other staff.

Prepare and maintain accurate medical records.

Deal tactfully and courteously with patients and their families.

Establish and maintain cooperative working relationships.

Communicate verbally in a clear manner and with volume required to carry on telephone and face-to-face conversations to teach and instruct parents and children.

Speak effectively before groups and/or individuals; read and write clearly and effectively to keep and prepare a variety of records and reports.

Administer occupational therapy treatments and exercises.

Analyze, evaluate and draw logical conclusions from data.

Read, understand and interpret physician's orders and instructions for therapy and the use of equipment.

Develop and maintain cooperative work relationships with those contacted in the course of work.

Training and Experience:

Any combination of training and experience which would likely provide the required knowledge and abilities is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the required knowledge and abilities would be:

Two (2) years of responsible work experience as a professional occupational therapist which included pediatric work experience.

Special Requirements:

Possession of valid certification as an Occupational Therapist issued by America Occupational Therapists Association.

Possession of, or ability to obtain, an appropriate valid California Driver's License.

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