

Occupational/Physical Therapy Services

Occupational and physical therapy services are considered to be a related service under the Individual with Disabilities Education Improvement Act. If a child is eligible for special education and in need of related services to benefit from their special education program, then that service must be provided to the child.

Occupational and/or physical therapy referrals are made by the IEP team. Evaluations/assessments are conducted and then related service recommendations are made based upon the results of the evaluation/assessment. Occupational and/or physical therapy services that are related to the student's educational goals are provided in the least restrictive environment. This could be in the classroom, in the lunchroom, on the playground, or in any other "natural" environment the student may be in during the instructional school day.

Occupational and/or physical therapy services may include, but are not limited to: collaborating with the educational team regarding assistive technology, staff training, parent training, designing/recommending adaptations for the school environment, modifying classroom materials, teacher/staff consultation, team meetings, and direct service provisions aimed at help, and organizational skills. Physical therapy focuses mainly on gross motor, functional mobility, positioning, and accessibility skills.