

Allentown School District Occupational Therapy Services

What is School-Based Occupational Therapy (OT)

School-based occupational therapy (OT) is a type of therapy provided within a school setting to help students develop skills to succeed in their educational environment. Our services are goal-driven and individualized to align with each student's unique educational needs. We put the "FUN" back in Function!!

Purpose of School-Based OT

- To help students access their curriculum, provide meaningful activities in the classroom setting and thrive socially, emotionally and academically within the school environment.
- To support students with disabilities, developmental delays, or other challenges so they can thrive in the classroom.

Areas of support may include:

- **Fine motor skills:** e.g., handwriting, cutting, manipulating small objects.
- **Gross motor skills:** e.g., balance, coordination for playground or PE activities.
- **Sensory processing:** helping children manage sensory input like sounds, textures, or movement.
- **Self-care skills:** e.g., eating, dressing for recess, managing school supplies.
- **Attention and organization:** helping students stay focused, plan tasks, and transition between activities.
- **Assistive Technology** including accommodations for students using low-tech and high-tech tools and items for universal access to education.

Practice Model:

- Services are guided by the **Individualized Education Program (IEP)** or **504 Plan** if the child qualifies under special education law.
- Occupational Therapy team collaborates and works closely with teachers, families and other specialists to adjust routines or learning environments, provide updates on student's performance, and coordinates continued interventions to support our students' needs.