

## **SPECIFIC ROLES OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY STAFF**

Occupational therapy staff evaluate, consult, monitor and/or treat students in the following areas:

**Educational Training** – The goal is to build capacity in the educational setting with ongoing educational training to empower families, teachers, and other school staff to meet the educational needs of all students.

**Sensory Processing Skills** – Include (but may not be limited to): sensory integration, perceptual motor, reflex development/integration, oral motor, self-regulatory, and readiness abilities as foundations for sensory processing skills as appropriate to the learning environment.

**Accommodations in the Educational Setting** – Assessment and implementation of strategies which accommodate the learning needs as well as the physical environment, such as in classrooms, hallways, restrooms, lockers, playgrounds, and cafeterias.

**Components of Movement** – Development of head and trunk control for fine motor and bilateral skills, motor planning, and coordination of body parts for purposeful and skilled movement as appropriate to the learning environment.

**Assistive Technology** – OTs work with a team to assist in the educational setting to adapt and/or make recommendations for low tech as well as high tech equipment for the purpose of educational benefit.

**Self-Care Skills** – Include (but may not be limited to): feeding, dressing, hygiene, toileting, oral-motor, communication, and regulatory skills to participate in activities as appropriate to educational goals and objectives.

**Adaptation of Equipment** – Design, construction, and modification of splints and equipment for functional use (i.e. writing, dressing, feeding), and training in use of upper extremity prostheses; recommendations for positioning, wheelchairs, hand splints, upper extremity braces, transportation, and seating devices as appropriate to the learning environment.

**Pre-Vocational / Vocational Skills** – Manual dexterity, strength, endurance, physical capabilities, adaptive methods, and equipment as appropriate to the learning environment.

\*Note: The practice of Occupational Therapy does not include identifying underlying medical problems or etiologies, establishing medical diagnoses, or prescribing medical treatment.