

WATCH FOR UPCOMING ISSUES:

- WHY HANDWRITING IS IMPORTANT
- MOTOR PLANNING
- BALANCING

# Therakids

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF EDUCATORS  
AND PLANTING THE SEEDS OF CLASSROOM WELLNESS.

## ROLE OF THERAPIST IN THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

**School-based therapy vs. Clinic therapy:** School-based therapy is directed towards a child's academic success within the educational environment. No child may be treated without an IEP or 504 in place. Occupational and physical therapy is considered a related service in the IEP which cannot stand alone on an IEP. Therapy in the clinic focuses on individual's needs and how a child functions within their community and environment. Both school-based and clinic therapy require a doctor script to provide services. In both scenarios, children benefit from a quiet and separate area which gives children a chance to "not succeed" without judgment while developing confidants.

### School-Based Therapy

#### Occupational Therapy:

Occupational therapy is a related service and addresses the classroom performance of students which include fine motor, sensory motor, visual and perceptual skills. Students build skills and strategies to assist them in the educational environment.

**Physical Therapy:** Physical therapy is a related service developing skills on the playground, cafeterias, transportation and classroom settings addressing gross motor, gait, mobility, balance and posture.

**Speech Therapy:** Speech therapy is a related service address specific pre-academic/academics, social/emotional and vocational skills which are adversely affected by deficits in communication. Speech therapy may stand alone on an IEP.

### IEP vs. 504 Plans vs. Consultation

#### Individualized Educational Plan

The IEP is a document that gives information about how the student is currently performing in the school environment, what and how the school with help the student, and what services the school will provide. Every child receiving special education services MUST have an IEP. Therapists are part of the IEP team along with parents, special education teachers, regular education teachers, and school representative. The team decides where and how your child will receive the help he/she needs to be successful. PT and OT cannot stand alone on an IEP without additional services. A child without an IEP and who could benefit from OT/PT services may be eligible for a 504 plan or consultation.

VS.

#### 504 Plans

A 504 plan is for students who has a disability but does not qualify for an IEP. A 504 identifies accommodations and modifications a student with disabilities may need in order to participate in programs and activities such as but not limited to seating assignment, adaptive equipment, and additional time for testing or assignments. PT and OT may stand alone but require a case manager.

VS.

#### Consultation

A consultation by an OT/PT provides assistance to the classroom teacher in identifying students' needs. The therapist may design activities or modifications to be implemented in the educational environment. An OT or PT consultation is for students who no longer require direct OT/PT services. When a child receives consultation services, the therapist communicates with the child's teacher monitoring progress in the classroom. The therapist will not meet with the child during this time but monitor their progress.

Website: <http://www.aota.org/featured/area6/index.asp>  
[http://www.superduperinc.com/handouts/pdf/77\\_ABC\\_IEP.pdf](http://www.superduperinc.com/handouts/pdf/77_ABC_IEP.pdf)  
<http://www.superduperinc.com/handouts/pdf/308%20504%20Plans.pdf>  
<http://www.superduperinc.com/handouts/pdf/157%20IEP.pdf>

Therakids P.C. provides specialized occupational, physical and speech therapy services to help children overcome developmental concerns. Services are provided in the school setting throughout southwestern