

Occupational Therapists provide services that help children to achieve their highest possible level of independent functioning within the home, the school, and the community. These services include screening, assessment, program planning, consultation and education.



Who Qualifies for these Services?

Children with sensory-motor and developmental challenges may be referred for this service. They are identified by the School Based Team, which may include the child's teacher, parents, the school administrator, the school counsellor, and other Student Support Services staff.

Mission Statement

As a member of the educational team, the Occupational Therapist's role is to encourage development, function and participation in everyday life at school. Therapists collaborate with teachers, other professionals, and paraprofessionals regarding the occupational therapy needs of identified students.

Therapists, along with parents and teachers, establish a common set of goals appropriate to the student in the educational setting. Therapists have a good understanding of the school environment to ensure that goals are appropriate. Therapists are able to perceive the needs of the child within the context of the school and are able to provide the educational staff with training. Therapeutic goals consistently support educational goals. Therapeutic techniques can be implemented in their school environment.

Occupational Therapists ...

- work with other members of the child's team including parents, physicians, and other community therapists and agencies
- are involved with creating an Individual Education Plan (IEP), team meetings, and other planning sessions
- work closely with teachers, parents, and other personnel to provide programs which take into account the fine and gross motor functioning of students with disabilities
- assist teachers, education assistants, parents and other staff to present tasks and materials most appropriate to students
- interpret medical information and the educational implications of this information for the student
- refer to appropriate community and/or medical services promote independence in self-care activities
- enhance community living skills promote effective use of leisure time
- recommend specialized equipment or modifications to promote independence in home and school settings
- Provide information and training in a variety of areas including:
 - i) overviews of disabilities and their effects on school performance
 - ii) disability awareness and implications for other students and teachers in the school
 - iii) suggest seating and positioning techniques
 - iv) recommend adaptations to sports and recreation programs to facilitate the functioning of children with disabilities
 - v) refer to community resources for further information

This information is based on the [Inter-Ministerial Protocols for the Provision of Support Services \(2013\)](#) and [Support Services for Schools](#), Ministerial Order 149/89 (M127/19), Government of British Columbia.