

## **SCHOOL OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST**

**Reports to:** Division Coordinator

**Division:** Special Education

### **Our ideal candidate**

You are a culturally caring and empathetic professional with creative problem-solving skills who cares about the people you work with and the students receiving your services. You are a team player, skilled in your area of expertise, and you strive to do a good job at all times.

### **General description**

Provides occupational therapy and services for special education students, ages birth to 22 years, that includes assessment, development of Individualized Education Program (IEP) goals and plans, therapy, and direct intervention strategies and activities to assist students in acquiring functional and independent life skills within their occupational performance in the educational setting. Works with special education teams and provides consultation and training to school personnel and families.

### **Specific duties and responsibilities**

- Provides occupational therapy services to students by conducting assessments in context to their occupational performance within the educational setting using an ecological model to determine their strengths and level of need in areas that may include physical, cognitive, psychosocial and sensory components
- Participates in pre-referral screenings, provides support and recommendations as part of the general education process, and facilitates transition planning
- Participates in intervention planning and implementation of IEP and Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) services
- Develops well defined educationally relevant goals and objectives that are part of the student's individual educational program
- Evaluates student progress on individual IEP and IFSP goals and revises goals as needed
- Prepares occupational therapy assessments and progress and makes recommendations
- As a part of the IFSP or IEP team the OT collaborates with professional staff to determine an individualized education plan for students eligible for special education services
- Instructs and collaborates with multidisciplinary teams in occupational therapy treatment approach, and instructional support on understanding, interpreting, and implementing intervention procedures
- Consults with parents and staff on occupational therapy interventions for students
- Provides training and continuing professional development to teachers and resource staff
- Keeps up-to-date on current clinical, theoretical and educational research in the profession and develops up-to-date best practices for therapy services
- Ensures the documentation of services is professional, efficient, and accountable, and in conformance with the policies of state and other agencies
- Modifies and may design adaptive equipment that enhances students' ability to access learning and technology
- Performs other duties as assigned that support the overall objective of the position

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### Requirements

Education: Master's degree in occupational therapy (or bachelor's degree if received prior to 2007) from an accredited four-year college or university and proof of continuing education.

Experience: One year's experience in a school setting preferred.

### Knowledge and Skills:

- Specialized knowledge of the physical, sensory, intellectual, social, and emotional growth patterns of children including the developmental and educational needs of children with specific disabilities
- Current theories and best practices in the application of occupational therapy techniques, including oral motor facilitation, daily living activities, sensory impairments, perceptual motor, fine motor development, and normal and abnormal child development
- Advanced math and interpretive skill to conduct and evaluate statistics
- Sufficient human relations skills to achieve and maintain trust and cooperation with peers and students, to deliver formal discussion with classroom-sized groups, to resolve conflict, and to use advanced lines of inquiry to obtain personal information from students
- Requires professional writing skills sufficient to write reports and correspondence that may be sensitive and have legal implications

### Abilities

- Requires ambulatory ability to move to various class and meeting room settings, to stoop, bend and kneel, and to reach
- Hand-arm motion ability and coordination to assist others with physical movements
- Hand-eye-arm coordination ability to use special diagnostic devices and a personal computer keyboard to access and record information
- Visual ability to recognize words, numbers, and non-verbal actions of people
- Auditory ability to project voice and carry out conversations with individuals and small groups in person and over the phone

### Licenses and certificates

- License to practice in California
- Certification by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy and registration by the American Occupational Therapy Association
- Valid California driver's license

### Working conditions

Moderately active work is performed where some safety considerations exist due to physical effort. Travel to different locations and school sites within the county is required.

### Salary range: 96

Approved by the Personnel Commission: Oct. 25, 2007  
Revised: Dec. 14, 2017