

What is School Physical Therapy?

School physical therapists use therapeutic activities that correct, facilitate or adapt a child's functional performance in motor control, coordination, balance, mobility and accessibility.

School Therapists are involved in:

- Assessments and Evaluations
- Teacher, parent and staff education
- Direct Treatment
- Collaboration with all service providers

Physical Therapy in the School Environment

School-based physical therapy focuses on purposeful goal directed activities that improve a child's functional performance throughout his/her school day. Physical therapists use a comprehensive approach to evaluate a child's needs in his/her educational environment.

- Sitting upright in a chair or on the floor
- Keeping up with peers when walking or using mobility device
- Negotiating obstacles within school setting
- Navigating the play structure with the least amount of supervision necessary for safety

Physical Therapy Intervention

Upon parent permission, a school physical therapist completes an evaluation. If a child is supported within his/her educational environment and is accessing and benefiting from his/her curriculum, physical therapy is not required. If needs are identified physical therapy is recommended as a related service. Effective intervention uses a continuum of direct treatment, consultation, monitoring and collaboration to achieve the child's goals



