



Bergen Center for Child Development
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Maternity Leave Placement: School-Based Physical Therapist (PT) – New Jersey

Summary

Provide specialized physical therapy services within an educational environment to help students with disabilities access their learning environment and achieve maximum academic and social benefits. The School Physical Therapist evaluates students, develops and implements Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), and collaborates with educational staff to promote mobility, function, and independence.

Key Responsibilities

Student Evaluation & Planning:

- Consult with families, teachers, and staff to understand student conditions and review medical/educational history.
- Conduct comprehensive assessments to diagnose movement dysfunction and identify physical challenges or impairments.
- Serve as a vital member of the Child Study Team, developing measurable goals and objectives for each student's IEP.

Staff and IEP Meetings:

- Attend all required staff meetings and assist in developing and documenting specific objectives, particularly for students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).

Treatment & Intervention:

- Provide and implement evidence-based treatment plans tailored to student needs.
- Coach students in therapeutic exercises to improve gross motor skills, posture, balance, and coordination.
- Assist students with using assistive devices like canes or prosthetics.

Environment & Collaboration:

- Ensure a safe and accessible educational environment by recommending classroom modifications or adaptive equipment.
- Assist classroom teachers and other personnel in incorporating movement and activity into daily instruction.
- Collaborate with other school professionals (Occupational Therapists, Speech Therapists, Nurse, Behavior Team and Administration) and participate in team conferences.

Documentation & Compliance:

- Maintain accurate and detailed daily notes, progress reports, and discharge summaries in the student records system.

- Ensure all documentation and practices comply with state/federal laws (e.g., IDEA, FERPA) and ethical standards.
- Monitor student progress and adapt treatment plans accordingly.

Qualifications and Requirements

Education:

- A Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree from a CAPTE-accredited program.

NJ Licensure:

- Possess a valid, active Physical Therapist license issued by the New Jersey Board of Physical Therapy.
- Possess a valid New Jersey educational services certificate with a School Physical Therapist endorsement issued by the NJ Department of Education.

Examinations:

- Passing scores on the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) administered by the FSBPT and the NJ Jurisprudence exam.

Ongoing Requirements:

- Ability to meet continuing education requirements (30 hours every two years, including ethics and jurisprudence) to maintain licensure.

Skills:

- Strong communication, interpersonal skills, physical stamina to manage physical workload, and proficiency in documentation.

Work Environment

- Settings: This role operates in diverse environments, including the Bergen Center for Child Development and the community.
- Patient Populations: The position will involve working with varied student populations, including individuals with developmental disabilities and students that present with challenging behaviors.
- Schedule: The yearly schedule will follow school-based requirements.