

PHYSICAL THERAPIST – PEDIATRIC

TOMPKINS COUNTY

Department Health Department
Classification Competitive
Labor Grade _____
Approved Board Res. #
Revised _____
By AF: Commissioner of Personnel

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS:

This is a professional Physical Therapy position involving responsibilities for providing comprehensive evaluation, and treatment of a wide variety of congenital, developmental, neuromuscular, skeletal or acquired disorders of infants and children ages birth to 5. The Physical Therapist will work collaboratively with physicians, educators, clients, their families/caregivers (a diverse population) and Health Department staff as part of an interdisciplinary team. This work is performed under the written order of a physician and under the general supervision of the Division Director or Supervisor. Supervision of others is not normally a function of this position. The incumbent will perform all related duties as directed.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

Develops evaluation and rehabilitation plans for pediatric clients with physical delays / disorders / impairments;
Uses a wide variety of modalities to provide treatment focusing on improving gross and fine motor skills, balance and coordination, strength and endurance as well as sensory processing / integration of the client / child;
Evaluates client / child's cognitive and social aspects of physical delay, limitations and sensory integration with regards to challenging behavior and ineffective social skills;
Performs and documents evaluation of pediatric client / child referred using evaluative techniques in order to diagnose physical delays / disorders or impairments;
Administers standardized evaluation tests / assessments as primary or generalist evaluator within a team - with regards to five functional domains of growth and development – Communication (receptive and expressive), Physical (fine and gross motor), Cognitive (thinking and reasoning), Social Emotional and Adaptive (self help skills);
Establishes and implements long term and short term therapy goals, treatment strategies and methods to aid in the treatment / remediation of the delay / disorder / impairment;
Collaborates with client / child's family and team to provide intervention to meet the developmental, educational, functional and medical physical therapy needs;
Formulates and carries out plans to meet the needs of the client and family and routinely reviews the client / child's progress / delays with team members and Supervisor;
Consults with physicians and other health care and educational professionals and paraprofessionals as a member of a multidisciplinary team in developing and implementing appropriate therapeutic approaches;
Develops and implements remediation programs on an individual and / or group basis based on evaluative data and behavioral objectives for each client / child;
Provides therapy using various assistive technologies such as prone standers, gait trainers, mobile positioning systems, orthotics and various specialized techniques including sensory integration.
Provides strength based therapeutic strategies / techniques to parents / guardians / family / daycare providers to increase their own capacity and confidence in their ability to help the child improve functional development relating to the delay / impairment / disorder;
Observes and measures progress of clients receiving service;
Establishes and maintains professional contacts with relative outside agencies to further benefit the overall treatment of client / child's and families;
Visits houses of clients, parents / guardians, family, daycare providers and works to establish services according to client / family needs;
Uses computer applications or other automated systems such as spreadsheets, word processing, calendar, email and database software in performing work assignments;
Prepares a variety of reports, including computer based reports as required by Health Department Division program(s);
Accesses protected educational and health information in accordance with departmental assignments and guidelines;
Maintains a variety of case management related records;
Reviews existing case records for available information for use in formulating need / plan of service in collaboration with other team members;
Participates in Department emergency preparedness training, drills and events as required and able.

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PHYSICAL THERAPIST – PEDIATRIC (CONTINUED)

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILL, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

Thorough knowledge of modern principals and practices and methods of Pediatric Physical Therapy;
Thorough knowledge of diagnostic tests and assessments;
Thorough knowledge of assistive technology devices or systems including therapeutic equipment and specialized techniques used in treating physical delays / disorders / impairments;
Good knowledge and awareness of various cultural values and lifestyles;
Good knowledge of federal, state and local laws, regulations and guidelines regarding the Early Intervention and Pre-School Special Education programs;
Skill in successfully applying the principles of physical therapy to children aged birth to five years;
Ability to interview, establish and maintain successful relations with others under various challenging conditions;
Ability to make decision and take action in interventions in a variety of physical locations and social / interpersonal situations;
Ability to present ideas clearly and concisely both orally and in writing;
Ability to prepare and maintain records, reports and correspondences;
Ability to operate a computer for the entry and retrieval of data and research needed (speed is not a factor).
Good powers of observation and analysis;
Empathy, good judgment, initiative, tact, courtesy and sensitivity is required;
The employee's mental and physical condition shall be commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION:

- (a) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State approved College or University with a bachelors degree physical therapy **AND** one year of full-time paid (or the equivalent part-time and/or volunteer) post-licensure experience specifically performing physical therapy with children ages birth to five years; **OR**
- (b) Any combination of training and experience equal to or greater than that specified in (a) above.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT:

At the time of application, the candidate must possess a full license (limited permit to practice is not acceptable) and current registration issued by the New York State Education Department, to practice as a Pediatric Physical Therapist in New York State.

At the time of appointment, the successful candidates must possess a valid NYS Driver's License and demonstrate the ability to meet the transportation requirements of the position. The valid drivers license must be maintained for the duration of employment.

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