

Related Services Update

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Supervision in the schools

Related services are often provided by qualified occupational therapy assistants (OTA's), speech-language pathologist assistants (SLPA's), and physical therapy assistants (PTA's). OTA's, SLPA's, and PTA's must be supervised by a licensed therapist in the same field for services within the scope of their practice (OT Administrative Code, 2016). The roles and responsibilities of supervising therapists and assistants are outlined in each profession's national association guidelines. Generally, supervising therapists are responsible for choosing assessments, interpretation of evaluations, modifying treatment plans, and discharge planning; while assistants' primary responsibilities are direct patient care and collaborating with their supervising therapist.

There are a variety of methods of supervision including direct and indirect methods. Direct methods include face-to-face contact such as meetings, co-treating, and teaching. While indirect supervision can include phone-calls, emails, and written communication (American Occupational Therapy Association, 2009). Experience level, treatment setting, and other factors must be considered by the therapist-assistant team as they work together to decide the proper amount of supervision. A combination of both direct and indirect supervision is desirable and most practical, especially in situations in which the therapist travels significant distance to the school.

The appropriate use of assistants is necessary and important in providing access to related services to more students across Oklahoma. Using assistants for treatment time allows more time for the supervisor to interpret evaluation results, make treatment plans, do discharge planning, and complete other responsibilities only a supervising therapist can complete. Overall, the use of assistants within related services is more economical for school districts and a more efficient service delivery model to meet demands.

References

- American Occupational Therapy Association. (2009). Guidelines for supervision, roles, and responsibilities during the delivery of occupational therapy services. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 63(6), 797-803.
- OK. Administrative Code ch. 30, § 888.14. Occupational Therapists and Assistants. 2016 OK Administrative Code Title 435. 14 October 2017.

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- Technical assistance
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- Upcoming trainings

Do you have specific questions about related services?
We can provide technical assistance to your school!
Email us at: twarwick@todaystherapysolutions.com

Current opportunities:

Speech pathology openings: Epic Charter Schools is looking for a full time tele therapist and part time face to face therapist.

Speech pathologist availability: Speech pathologist will travel up to 30 minutes outside of Edmond. For more information on these opportunities or if you know of other related services opportunities, contact me at twarwick@todaystherapysolutions.com

Upcoming Trainings & Resources

November 10, 2017, Oklahoma Autism Center

Enhancing Communication for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders

To register: <http://www.autismcenterok.org/content/upcoming-statewide-trainings>

December 1, 2017 (Enid, OK), December 4, 2017 (Tulsa, OK), December 5, 2017 (OKC, OK), December 7, 2017 (Lawton, OK), Summit Professional Education

The Essential Therapy Toolkit for Children with Autism, ADHD, and Sensory Processing Impairments

To register: <https://www.summit-education.com/course/CICEJT.1/the-essential-therapy-toolkit-for-children-with-autism-adhd-and-sensory-processing-impairments#/live/6-ceus/enid-ok-2017-12-01>

December 7, 2017, Oklahoma Autism Network

Oklahoma Statewide Autism Conference

To register: <http://okautism.org/AnnualConference.aspx>

December 8, 2017, Today's Consulting Solutions

The Impact of the Code: Understanding Ethics

To register: <http://todayconsultingsolutions.com/conferences/training-conferences/>