

Below is a list of activities that physical therapists are responsible for along with the mandated sessions they provide:

1. Evaluating special education students referred for Physical Therapy
2. Developing and presenting therapeutic activities to benefit students in the least restrictive environment.
3. Reviewing clinical records of students receiving Physical Therapy for completeness of data.
4. Developing and implementing individual and group treatment programs for the provision of Physical Therapy.
5. Maintaining attendance and anecdotal records for students receiving Physical Therapy.
6. Participating in multidisciplinary and parent conferences to discuss student progress, as well as offering recommendations for specific therapy programs.
7. Consulting with the teaching and supervisory staff and the “team” on matters relating to Physical Therapy including: appropriate use of therapeutic equipment, instruction on therapeutic intervention, developing individual goals and objectives for students served.
8. Acting as clinical Instructors for Physical Therapy programs from local colleges and universities.
9. Participating in the development of IEP goals and objectives for students being served.
10. Consulting with parents/guardians regarding treatment goals, specialized therapeutic equipment and other recommendations to enhance the student’s functional ability within the classroom and school setting.
11. Ordering supplies and equipment as needed to carry out a Physical Therapy program, and maintaining an ongoing inventory of these materials.
12. Designing, modifying or constructing adaptive equipment for classroom programs, and instructing teachers, paraprofessionals, parents and other staff in the use of these materials.
13. Contacting primary care facilities, clinics, doctors, vendors, orthotists regarding students’ medical issues, adaptive equipment needs, etc., to provide continuity of services for students.

Physical Therapists are an integral part of the school community. They are available to assist with students who require monitoring and maintenance of orthotics, standing programs, sensory integration schedules, etc. They assist in the development of motor planning and work with the teachers and staff to implement these programs as well as monitoring the follow up of treatment protocol.

Physical Therapists are licensed by the State of New York and require 5-7 years of college, graduate or post graduate courses. They are trained to work with the medical community as well as with the school community. They adhere to a strict professional code of ethics which is outlined in New York State’s rules and regulations through the American Physical Therapy Association. They are schooled and versed in medical

terminology and have an in-depth understanding of the various orthopedic, neurological and cognitive issues that affect the children they service.

Physical Therapists may evaluate and initiate services, de-certify services based on compiled notes, evaluations or achievement of IEP goals, or make changes to a child's mandate involving frequency, group size or location. These activities are done with the agreement of the parent as well as the school team.

Physical Therapists provide 45 mandated sessions per week with time allotted for the above extra activities which are considered a part of their job description.

In an ideal world, Physical Therapists should have a separate room to work in (as well as the classroom), an outside phone line in order to reach doctors, parents, vendors, etc, and equipment which enables them to treat the population they service.