



Memo

To: Directors of Special Education, Occupational Therapists, and Physical Therapists

From: Jayne Dougherty, CDE Principal Consultant OT/PT/APE

Date: January 2014

Re: Definition of Direct and Indirect Service for School Based Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy

Direct Services: The specialized service professional provides face-to-face interaction between the student/child and therapist. This may be delivered individually, in a small or large group or with another team member (such as co-treating). Direct services may be provided in a variety of settings in compliance with the IEP.

Indirect Services: The specialized service professional provides ongoing training, monitoring, supervision, procedural evaluation, and support to staff members and parents on behalf of the student. Indirect services also includes student-centered discussion with outside personnel involved in a student's case, adapting, modifying and acquiring materials and equipment. As part of the indirect service, the professional has regular opportunities to interact with the student.

Direct and indirect services are those services provided to the student by:

- A physical therapist or occupational therapist holding an active CDE Specialized Service Professional license and DORA license in their respective profession
- DORA licensed certified occupational therapy assistant (COTA)
- DORA licensed physical therapist assistant (PTA)
- OT Aide under the supervision of a licensed OT or licensed COTA
- OT Aides do not provide skilled occupational therapy services

- PT Aide under the supervision of a licensed PT
- PT/PTA student from a nationally accredited physical therapy program under the supervision of a licensed PT
- OT/OTA student from a nationally accredited occupational therapy program under the supervision of a licensed OT

Resources:

The National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities
(NICHCY)

American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)

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