

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION**  
**Personnel Commission**

**CLASS TITLE: PHYSICAL THERAPIST**

**BASIC FUNCTION:**

Under limited supervision of a school administrator or designee, provides pediatric physical therapy assessment and treatment to students with special needs enrolled in the educational programs of the Santa Clara County Office of Education; determines levels of function relative to the student's age and educational placement in such areas as fine/gross motor skill development, sensory motor integration, self-care and activities of daily living; consults with many different educational team members within a framework of special education policies and procedures; exercises independent clinical judgment and well-developed communication skills.

**REPRESENTATIVE DUTIES:**

**ESSENTIAL DUTIES**

Provides physical therapy services to students with special needs enrolled in the educational programs of the Santa Clara County Office of Education

Assesses student performance in activities that are meaningful, curriculum oriented, and applicable to daily life routines

Develops and implements in appropriate settings and curricula a therapy intervention plan that supports student IEP goals, objectives and outcomes

Assists in the development of student transition plans, programs, and goals

Writes assessment reports identifying student needs and proposed treatment strategies writes individual student goals and objectives as part of the IEP plan and maintains progress records; participates in IEP meetings

Documents findings, actions taken, and/or recommendations made regarding areas of service; maintains records as required by the Department of Special Education and identified program needs

Provides students with individual treatment and group therapy sessions to correct specific physical areas

Monitors therapy programs and educational staff trained to incorporate appropriate physical therapy treatment strategies into the educational program; evaluates the effectiveness of the established program and makes modification within the framework of the IEP process as necessary

Participates in meetings between County Office staff and families on the appropriate implementation of educational programs; collaborates and coordinates physical therapy goals with the educational program

Demonstrates educational and developmental strategies to students and families for successful home management of physical therapeutic programs

Provides on-site interpretation and summarizes assessment report results to families; recommends appropriate activities and materials designed to accomplish goals

Provides formal and informal in-services to educational staff and families in relevant areas focusing on physical therapy treatment principals as they relate to the development and education of children with special needs

Consults and collaborates with medical and community agencies who interact with the County Office special schools and early intervention programs regarding physical therapy services for students; participates in local and state presentations to large and small groups

Adapts equipment to assure proper positioning and to enhance functional performance of the student, addressing the student's neuromuscular deficits and needs; may include design and fabrication of equipment, or recommendations for purchase of adaptive equipment as needed for the individualized special education program

Coordinates physical therapy program within the total educational system, including involvement with transition planning when appropriate

Maintains an in-depth knowledge of the laws and policies governing Special Education and Early Intervention in California, particularly as they pertain to the delivery of physical therapy services; consults with other members of the educational team regarding the mandated and best-practice roles of physical therapy

Supervises/provides direction of any support staff or others (i.e., student interns) assigned to the physical therapy program

Refers students and families to related services which will assist the student's development

Recommends future physical therapy services to administration

**OTHER DUTIES:**

Performs related duties as assigned.

**KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES:****KNOWLEDGE OF:**

Intellectual, sensory, and physical development of children and young adults

Skill in the application of physical therapy techniques utilized in the assessment and treatment of children with disabilities in the school setting

The educational and developmental needs of children

Theory of physical and mental rehabilitation underlying the practices of physical therapy

Principles, methods and objectives of physical therapy treatment, services, techniques

Neuromuscular function and dysfunction, kinesiology, skeletal anatomy, basic pathology involved in neuromuscular and orthopedic disabilities and the objective of physical therapy treatment of children with physical disabilities as it applies to the Individual Education Plan.

Principles of consultation, training, and supervision

**ABILITY TO:**

Accurately assess the developmental status and educational needs of children and young adults

Identify and analyze areas of developmental sensory-motor dysfunction

Develop and implement treatment plans, goals, and objectives to correct sensory-motor dysfunction as it relates to educational goals and objectives.

Collaborate with County Office staff, families and other physical therapists

Provide consultation for classroom management of motor, sensory, perceptual and self-care programs

Explain and provide training on physical therapy and rehabilitative principles

Provide direction to staff

Communicate effectively orally and in writing and make presentations to small and large groups

Maintain records and prepare complex reports

Work as a strong member of the IEP team, using current best practice clinical skills for working with children and adolescents with moderate to severe physical, mental and emotional disabilities

Provides therapy in a variety of settings such as classrooms, schools and early intervention facilities

Establish and maintain an effective and cooperative relationship with those contacted in the course of work including individuals from various ethnic and cultural groups

**EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE**

Generally, a combination of training and experience that could likely provide the required knowledge and abilities would be qualifying. A typical method to demonstrate these qualifications would be two years of clinical experience in pediatric therapy in an educational setting with emphasis on developmental disabilities. Experience in working collaboratively with teams and families are desired.

**LICENSES AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS:**

A valid license from or eligibility for licensing with the Physical Therapy Board of California to practice as a Physical Therapist in the State of California in accordance with the Physical Therapy Act.

Possession of a valid California driver's license with a driving record that meets the insurance requirements of the County Office of Education.

**WORKING CONDITIONS:**

**ENVIRONMENT:**

Office and classroom setting; driving vehicle to school sites to provide assistance to students and staff.

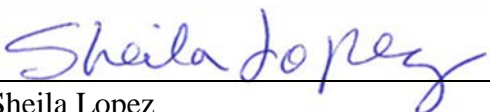
**PHYSICAL DEMANDS:**

Hearing and speaking to exchange information; seeing to perform assigned duties; sitting or standing for extended periods of time; dexterity of hands and fingers to operate equipment and perform assigned duties; kneeling, bending at the waist, and reaching overhead, above the shoulders and horizontally to retrieve and store files and supplies; lifting moderately heavy objects.

Approved by the Personnel Commission: May 27, 1999

Revised: January 27, 2005

Revised: July 9, 2014

  
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Sheila Lopez  
Director-Classified Personnel Services

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July 9, 2014  
Date