



School-Based Physical Therapy Services

Physical therapists working in educational settings help students help children participate in their educational programs. School-based PTs support students who 1) need equipment or environmental adaptations to better participate in school activities and/or 2) require the development of motor skills or therapeutic exercises to move about the education setting Physical therapy services are centrally administered and are available in all Fairfax County Public Schools.

PTs and PTAs may work with students individually or in groups. They coordinate activities with other school staff (teachers, PE teachers, occupational therapists) and frequently deliver their support in the classroom, in the gymnasium, on the playground, or during any regularly scheduled school activity. Therapy services include routine consultation, collaboration, and training with students, parents, and staff.

Areas of focus *may* include:

- Participation in Motor Activities
- Access and Safety Issues
- Functional Mobility
- Gross Motor Skills
- Strength and Endurance
- Postural Control and Alignment

To promote student participation and make environmental changes needed for moving about the educational setting, PTs may provide:

- Assessments of environment and equipment needs
- Consultation, coordination, and documentation
- Management and supervision of physical therapy services
- Instruction/training to students, families and school staff
- Review and dissemination of scientific literature/information
- Motor skills examination
- Motor skills training and therapeutic exercises
- Dismissal planning

Physical therapy supports are given in the educational setting to allow a student to appropriately carry out the movement strategies needed in naturally-occurring, daily routines even when the therapist is not present.

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