

Occupational Therapy Services

SKILLS FOR LIVING AND LEARNING

Further information

All occupational therapy services provided by Education Queensland are subject to information contained in the document *Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy Services in State Schools* available from the Education Policy and Procedures Register www.education.qld.gov.au/strategic/eppr/

Contact us

For local occupational therapy services contact:

- school principal
- Head of Special Education Services
- Regional Office or District Office.

Your local occupational therapist:

For information about statewide occupational therapy services contact: Senior Occupational Therapy Officers
Phone: (07) 3240 9333 Fax: (07) 3240 9300

Our approach

Education Queensland provides occupational therapy services to students with disabilities enrolled in state schools. The focus of these services is to enhance students' education programs and outcomes.

Education Queensland Occupational Therapy Services

www.education.qld.gov.au/curriculum/learning/students/disabilities/staff/ot.html



SKILLS FOR LIVING AND LEARNING

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS PROMOTE FUNCTION, INDEPENDENCE AND ACHIEVEMENT OF EDUCATIONAL GOALS.



SKILLS FOR LIVING AND LEARNING

Occupational therapy

Occupational therapists in schools:

- work as members of the educational team which includes the student, parent/carer, teacher, teacher aides and specialist support personnel
- assist in developing and delivering programs that enhance or support students' education goals
- promote students' optimum wellbeing, function, independence and productivity at school
- consult with and provide resources to school staff, parents and the school community
- liaise with other agencies that provide services to students.

Occupational therapists assist students to develop functional skills for everyday life including:

- student/work skills (for example: organising self, handwriting and computer skills, and vocational skills)
- activities of daily living (for example: eating, dressing and using community facilities)
- play, leisure and recreation (for example: playground activities and participation).

Occupational therapists use specialised knowledge of the foundation skills and abilities required for learning including:

- movement and sensory skills (for example: hand skills, coordination of movement, strength and endurance, sensory awareness and processing)

- cognitive skills (for example: thinking, remembering, attending and problem-solving)
- psychosocial skills (for example: sharing, interacting with others and developing friendships).

Services

Occupational therapists contribute to students' education programs by:

- assessing students' development and the functional skills needed for school and everyday life
- analysing activities and modifying them for students, planning and designing curriculum adjustments with the team
- adapting equipment or the environment to help students participate as independently as possible in the school program
- advising on the use of technology and the best means of accessing devices for independence in areas such as communication, mobility and computer skills
- preventing or reducing the chance of further disability through specialist techniques such as hand splinting and advising on correct positioning during activities
- enhancing self-esteem by providing students with achievable, motivating tasks.