

JOB DESCRIPTION – ASSOCIATE PAEDIATRIC OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

TITLE:	Associate Paediatric Occupational Therapist
LOCATION:	Opportunities are available Nationwide.
HOURS:	Flexible including evenings and weekends
ACCOUNTABLE TO:	Lead Occupational Therapist
CONTACT INFORMATION:	0330 223 0888

JOB SUMMARY

- To work as an autonomous associate practitioner in providing paediatric occupational therapy assessments and treatments and goal setting to own designated caseload of paediatric patients.
- To work as independently within mainstream school settings in providing group therapy to children of primary and secondary school age.
- To provide high quality standardised assessments of children either in clinic or at the child's home.
- To maintain up to date occupational therapy records in line with professional standards.
- To use evidence based practice and specialist skills to assess, plan, implement and evaluate treatment interventions.
- To liaise with other health care professionals, carers and relatives. To provide education and training as required.
- To provide written assessment reports and recommendations for treatment for patients as required.

Values

- To put patients first in everything you do and put each patient's needs at the centre of all decisions. To accept that some people need more help, and that not all goals will be realised, however, to strive to achieve the best possible results for each of your patients in all circumstances.
- To value each person as an individual, respect their aspirations, beliefs, commitments, and seek to understand their priorities, needs, abilities and limitations. To take what others have to say seriously. To be honest about your point of view and what you can and cannot do.
- To strive to improve health and well-being and people's experiences of occupational therapy. To value excellence and professionalism wherever you find it – in the everyday things that make people's lives better as much as in clinical practice, service improvements and innovation.

- To earn the trust placed in you by insisting on quality and striving to get the basics right every time: safety, confidentiality, good communication, professionalism and dependable service. To welcome feedback, learn from your mistakes and build on your successes.
- To respond with kindness to each person's needs, anxieties, pain, and desires. To search for the things you can do, however small, to increase each person's quality of life.

Clinical Responsibility

- To provide specialist occupational therapy input to children with a variety of neurological, developmental and other complex conditions.
- To provide occupational therapy input into management of paediatric clients with highly complex needs.
- To monitor, evaluate and modify treatment in order to measure progress and ensure effectiveness of intervention.
- To provide occupational therapy input into comprehensive interdisciplinary assessment/treatment/discharge.
- To discuss services and treatment options to potential clients and parents/carers.
- To ensure that clients/ parents are involved in the planning and prioritisation of their rehabilitation plans wherever possible.
- To provide support, consultation and advice on relevant occupational therapy issues to patients, parents, carers and teachers where necessary.
- To contribute to the management of complex cases, ensuring co-ordination of services involved such as health, social, statutory and voluntary services.
- To adapt practice to meet individual patient's circumstances, including due regard for cultural, social, and linguistic differences in addition to their cognitive and physical disabilities.
- To demonstrate high level of clinical effectiveness by use of evidence based practice.

Communication

- To use appropriate methods of communication with patients, parents, and carers to maximise rehabilitation potential and their understanding of the condition. Communication skills of persuasion, motivation, explanation and gaining informed consent will be used with a wide variety of patients. Barriers to effective communication will regularly be evident, e.g. expressive and receptive dysphasia, loss of hearing, pain and fear, etc.
- To provide specialist spontaneous and planned advice, teaching and instruction to relatives, carers and other professionals, to promote understanding of the aims and physiotherapy and to ensure a consistent approach to patient care.
- To communicate effectively and collaboratively with all health and social care sectors to ensure delivery of a co-ordinated service. This will include case conferences, joint sessions and documentation.

- To assess capacity gain valid informed consent and have the ability to work within a legal framework with patients who lack the capacity to consent to treatment.
- To act as a specialist occupational therapist providing consultation and advice to peers in own profession and colleagues and other professionals in the wider health and social care settings.
- To work in collaboration with/refer to NHS colleagues in hospital and community settings in response to identified patient need.
- To contribute to regular goal planning and ensure that information is shared/ communicated on a frequent basis.
- To deliver complex, sometimes unwelcome, concepts and ideas, to clients and carers. This requires using high levels of communication skills with clients who may have severe cognitive and physical impairment or may be in a highly emotional state.
- To reinforce diagnosis of terminal, progressive and non-recovering conditions in a skilled and empathetic way.

Research, Development and Services Improvement

- To advise directors on issues of service delivery or areas for service improvement.

Staff Management

- To occasionally provide supervision to junior staff, therapy assistants, students and colleagues.

Financial Responsibility

- To assess and identify new equipment as appropriate to a client's clinical need. This may be privately funded or through requests to other agencies.
- To be aware of the funding arrangements of all patients.
- If appropriate be aware of the limits/restrictions on funding from third parties.

Professional

- To comply with the College of Occupational Therapy codes of professional conduct at all times.
- To be responsible for personal continuous professional development by the use of self-education, reflective practice and active participation in the in-service training programme.

Organisational

- To demonstrate effective time management and organisational skills during management of own workload. This includes making patient's appointments, co-ordinating with clinics, and liaising with other professionals for joint assessment and treatments.
- To ensure that the admin staff are aware of all patient appointments to ensure they are added to the online diary system.

- To respond promptly to any communication from clinic staff regarding appointments or patient enquiries.
- To ensure timely communication of assessment findings, treatment, outcomes as required.