

Denton ISD
Occupational
Therapy
Department
1205 W University
Drive
Denton, TX 76201
940-369-4095

#OTMonth

April 1, 2015

April is #OTMonth

April is here! It means that we are only a couple months away from summer break! April has been recognized as OT Month since 1980. Did you know that in Denton ISD we have a team of occupational therapists that are here to service students while they are in school?

To celebrate #OTMonth, every Wednesday during the month of April, you will be getting a paper like this that gives you some information about how occupational therapists can help you in your classroom. These sheets will include tips and tricks that may be helpful in your classroom! As a team, we are excited to share

some of our secrets and tricks for the classroom!

You may first be thinking, what is an occupational therapist? How do they help students in the school? This first fun page is going to introduce you to your team of occupational therapists in Denton ISD and explain our role in the schools. Hopefully this will give you some insight as to what we do and

how we can help your students in special education be successful.



What is an Occupational Therapist?

An occupational therapist is a professional who works with individuals of all ages to increase their independence with functional and preferred activities. They can be found in school systems, hospitals, rehab hospitals, community outpatient centers, mental health facilities, homes, and many other places. Occupational thera-

pists are unique because they look at the patient or individual as a whole and can be a vital part of any individual's plan of care.

In the school system, occupational therapists work with students who are in special education to access the school environment. This could include physical places within the building or finding

a different way to access the curriculum.

For more information:
<http://www.aota.org/-/media/Corporate/Files/AboutOT/Professionals/WhatIsOT/CY/Fact-Sheets/School%20Settings%20fact%20sheet.pdf>

<http://www.dentonisd.org/Page/55738>

How are therapy services in school different than a hospital or private clinic?

Occupational therapists have 2 primary models to base service delivery on: medical model and educational model.

Medically related services are generally performed to change the child's physical status. Treatment objectives are generally chosen along a predetermined developmental/physical change or rehabilitative sequence, regardless of the amount of time re-

quired to achieve the targeted goal.

Educational therapy services, including techniques chosen, are designed to meet the student's educational goals, as determined at an IEP meeting. At times, adaptations and/or modification and/or consultation with the teacher may be the only intervention(s) necessary to help the child succeed in the classroom.

A child can receive direct or consultative services. Direct services are direct contact with a student or within a small group of students. Consultative services are services to the teachers, classroom staff, and the student to meet the student's goals and objectives.

Meet the Occupational Therapists of Denton ISD

Heather Roberts, OTR

Brittany Ortiz, OTR

Kelly Nymeyer, OTR



Joan Draving, OTR
(Not Pictured)

Hope Edwards, OTR

Hope McCarroll, OTR