

THERAPY SERVICES

Therapists who work with people with developmental disabilities aim to work collaboratively with clients, their family, other therapists and services. They work in the home, school/preschool and community to provide assessment and recommendations in their area of expertise.

THERAPY INTERVENTION IS PROVIDED THROUGH A VARIETY OF MEANS INCLUDING:

- Consultation/liaison with client/parent/carer/teacher/other service providers such as doctors
- Individual intervention & programming
- Group programming
- Education and training

THERAPISTS ARE EMPLOYED BY:

- The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC)
- The Spastic Centre
- Department of Health
- Centacare
- Private Practices
- The Department of Education & Training
- Other Non Government Agencies

For information on how to contact a therapist suited to your needs contact your local DADHC Office and ask for Disability Services or the Community Support Team.

WHAT IS SPOT ON DD?

SPOT on DD is a group of Speech Pathologists, Physiotherapists, and Occupational Therapists who together aim to provide:

- promotion of best practice of therapy in the area of developmental disabilities.
- professional support
- continuing education information

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON SPOT ON DD WRITE TO:

SPOT on DD
PO Box 2283
Hornsby Westfield NSW 1635

OR E-MAIL:

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www.spotondd.org.au



Speech Pathologists Physiotherapists Occupational Therapists



Working with people who have a Developmental

Disability

SPEECH PATHOLOGY

Speech Pathologists can assist in the following areas:

COMMUNICATION

Develop understanding or comprehension of others' language and behaviour.



The use of words and / or sentences to verbally express messages.

Develop production of intelligible speech for functional communication.

Recognise and support the use of gestures and other natural communicative behaviours.

The use of alternative nonverbal systems to augment the person's receptive and expressive language skills, for example key word signs and visual symbols.

The use of appropriate social interaction skills, for example eye contact and turn taking.

The use of communicative behaviours to convey a variety of messages, such as making choices, requesting and expressing feelings.

Develop appropriate communication skills to assist people displaying challenging behaviours.

EATING AND DRINKING

Develop the ability to safely and effectively chew and swallow food and drink.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Occupational Therapists can assist in following areas:

SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Use of coordinated functional movement (sensory motor skills).

Use of hands for work, writing and play (fine motor skills).

Use of senses to understand and interact with the surroundings (perceptual skills).



INDEPENDENCE

Promotion of skills for participating in:

- Self care
- Household activities
- Social and Leisure activities
- Community Groups and Organisations
- Preparation for work

ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION

Seating and access requirements in home, school, car or elsewhere as applicable.

SPLINTING/CASTING OF THE UPPER LIMB

For increased function, maintenance of range of movement or relief of pain.

PHYSIOTHERAPY

Physiotherapists can assist in the following areas:

MOTOR LEARNING

Helping the person to learn and maintain motor skills eg. moving about on the floor, walking, jumping and bike riding.



MONITORING THE LENGTH OF MUSCLES AND AIMING TO PREVENT THE DEVELOPMENT OF DEFORMITIES

Predicting which muscles are likely to become shortened, which joints and bones will be affected and how to help prevent or slow this process down.

MANUAL HANDLING

Assisting carers with lifting and transferring by teaching them safe practices.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Assisting the person to increase health and physical fitness and endurance; encourage participation in recreational activities.