**Spencer County Public Schools Occupational Therapy**

OT services are provided across a continuum and look different for every student. The OT must determine which service delivery model is considered the best way to serve the student. Some students receive hands-on services (direct therapy) in individual and/ or group sessions. While other students receive services as the educator and OT discuss strategies/ work together to solve problems (collaboration and consultation). The amount of contact with the student may be regularly or intermittently scheduled as determined by the therapist according to the student’s need.

The job of the occupational therapist (OT) who works in schools is to help children meet the everyday demands of being a student. The school is one of the primary environments where certain occupations are performed daily. Some of the occupations that are worked on with students include:

*Functional Visual Motor Skills*

The OT will help with using classroom tools (pencils, scissors, calculators, etc.) and learning materials to communicate through handwriting, keyboarding, and access to assistive technology.

*Sensory Motor Skills*

The OT will help to Increase student participation using eyes, ears, nose, touch, and movement in order to gain access to the education curriculum.

*Vocational Skills*

The OT will help to improve on-task behaviors, completion of assignments, organization skills, and independent work habits that leads to participation in the job and community settings.

*Self-Management*

The OT will help with performing daily living skills such as feeding, dressing, safety awareness, and using adaptive materials when needed.

OT is a related service under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and is provided to help a student with a disability benefit from special education. If a child has a disability as defined by IDEA and needs special education and related services to meet unique learning needs, then he /she might be eligible for OT services. The student must be eligible for special education before being considered for our services in the schools under IDEA. Eligibility for special education does not mean automatic OT eligibility; however, if significant concerns arise with the student, then a functional evaluation will be performed to determine if the child warrants services.

Our services are delivered within the classroom setting as well as collaboration with team members who are involved in the child’s education. We provide direct therapeutic services as well as ongoing collaboration and role release services to school staff to enable the student to meet the educational goals.