

## **Job Description/General Responsibilities**

The Shandy Clinic Student Program allows students the opportunity to use what they have learned and expand their knowledge by gaining hands on experience in a clinical setting. Students will work alongside experienced Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, and Speech Language Pathologists assisting with the care and treatment of children. They will use a variety of tools and techniques such as audio-visuals, massage and hydrotherapy, and activities dealing with self-care, education, and social interactions in order to bring out the full potential in every child.

The student will assist the Occupational Therapist in working with children to improve their fine motor skills, sensory integration, and activities of daily living. The five main areas of work include:

- **Sensory Processing difficulties:** processing information from five classic senses (vision, auditory, touch, olfaction, and taste), the sense of movement (vestibular system), and/or the positional sense (proprioception).
- **Cognition and Perception:** challenges visual discrimination (similarities and differences), spatial relations (identifying reversals of objects and symbols), sequential memory (ability to recall objects from choices after they have been removed), visual memory (identifying an object that has been memorized from a previous page), visual form constancy (finding the same shape when it is rotated or a different size), and visual figure ground (finding an object within a busy background like I SPY)
- **Self Care:** getting dressed, right left and front to back discrimination, being able to organize getting dressed or ready for school be strategies and techniques from verbal or visual cues. Feeding issues such as texture aversions, grasp, bilateral coordination or trunk control. Hygiene skills such as bathing, grooming, toileting, brushing teeth and nail care.
- **Social Skills:** being able to develop coping skills and self-esteem. Learning how to follow directions, pay attention and listen. Engaging in cooperative play and sharing skills. Family, teacher, child centered therapy to give tools to everyone involved in the child's activity of daily living.
- **Motor Skills:** finger, hand strength, position and stability. Handwriting including wrist and/or forearm control, spatial organization (space and letter formation), copying shapes, fluency of finger movement, speed and dexterity.

The student will also assist the Occupational Therapist in examining the tasks facing a child on a daily basis and what is affecting the child's ability to perform these tasks. These tasks include self-care skills, social interaction with peers, fine motor skills for completion of age-appropriate craft or school skills, strength and endurance to be able to participate in age-appropriate motor activities. Through standardized testing and fun and engaging activities, the child becomes able to achieve his or her maximum potential through adaptation, environmental modification, or practice of newly acquired skills.