



Online Children's Therapy

Occupational Therapy Just For Kids

Medical vs. Educational Occupational Therapy

There are many differences between school-based and medical pediatric Occupational Therapy services, although there are many similarities in the treatment strategies used in both settings. The differences are in the regulations governing and the funding streams of each.

Therapy Model	Medical OT for children	OT in Special Education
Eligibility based on	medical diagnosis	special education category
Eligibility requires	“medically necessary”	“necessary for access to curriculum”
Referral most often by	parent, physician	teacher, parent
Assessments Used	functional and standardized	standardized
Treatment Goals related to	skills for living	core curricular standards
Takes place in	clinic, home, community	school
Goal writing by	therapist with family	educational team
Priorities set by	family	educational team
Treatment Plan approval	family, PCP, insurance	special educational team
Implementation responsibility	family, therapist	educational team
Outcome responsibility	therapist	special education teacher
Funding responsibility	family, insurance	school district
Treatment Group most often	individual, with family	small group, with educational assistant
Treatment Approach usually	therapy activities	consultative to educators
Primary Treatment Strategy	develop skills & physical abilities	adapt curricular activities to limitations

Bottom Line: Medical and Educational OT services are not substitutes for each other.