

**Central Valley School District  
Job Description #515**

**TITLE            Paraeducator--Certified Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA)**

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**GENERAL SUMMARY**

The Physical and Occupational Therapy Assistant provides assistance to disabled students eligible for and designated to receive physical therapy under the direction and supervision of a registered physical therapist. All Paraeducator positions may include instructional and supervisory duties.

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**ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS**

Depending upon the individual assignment, the Special Education Physical Therapy Assistant may perform all or a combination of the following:

1.     Implement therapy programs and related services under the supervision of a certified Physical Therapist.
2.     In conjunction with the Physical Therapist, perform screenings and assessments of students referred for Physical Therapy services. Address neurological, sensory, orthopedic, developmental and self-care needs relating to educational and functional performance at school.
3.     In conjunction with the Physical Therapist, develop Individual Education Plan (IEP) outlining yearly goals, objectives and terms of service delivery for each student eligible for Physical Therapy services, working with parents, teachers and MDT.
4.     In conjunction with the Physical Therapists, implement specific therapeutic programs designed to achieve documented IEP goals and objectives, and to enhance sensory integration, daily living skills, neurodevelopment skills, mobility and/or perceptual motor skills.
5.     Document accurate and current data, maintaining student file which reflects overall performance status toward IEP goals and objectives on a weekly/monthly/annual basis, subject to review by Physical Therapist, Coordinator of Special Education and parent or auditor.
6.     In conjunction with the Physical Therapist, order, adapt, fabricate and maintain individual student and general therapeutic equipment, encouraging optimum classroom independence by improved positioning, feeding, dressing, mobility, and computer usage.
7.     Notify the therapist when maintenance of specialized equipment, i.e. braces, prostheses, orthoses and wheelchairs is needed.
8.     Follow appropriate procedures regarding special medical conditions and needs such as seizures, catheters, respiratory difficulties, etc., within the guidelines of the supervising therapist.
9.     Utilize proper body mechanics and medical safety precautions when transferring or positioning children in adaptive equipment, including toilets.
10.    In conjunction with the Physical Therapist, coordinate and maintain written and verbal communications with district administration and staff, community resources, local medical professionals, and parents, creating an informed network for optimal service delivery.
11.    Perform other duties as required by the supervising certified physical therapist.

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**REPORTING RELATIONSHIPS**

This position reports to the Supervising Certified Physical Therapist and the Special Education Coordinator.

**MENTAL DEMANDS**

May experience frequent interruptions; may be required to shift tasks and priorities; required to deal with a wide range of student behaviors; required to deal with a wide range of physical and emotional disabilities; may occasionally deal with distraught or difficult students and adults.

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**PHYSICAL DEMANDS**

Potentially exposed to ordinary infectious diseases carried by students; exposed to student noise levels.

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**QUALIFICATIONS**

1. Graduate from a physical therapy assistant program (approved by the American Physical Therapy Association).
2. Possess certification as a physical therapy assistant with the American Physical Therapy Association.
3. Successful experience working with disabled children.
4. Demonstrated ability to communicate clearly and work independently and effectively with students, teachers, parents and administrators.
5. Possess adequate health and physical strength to lift 50 pounds in order to assist student mobility and relocation.
6. Ability to successfully complete blood-borne pathogens training and follow mandatory guidelines regarding universal precautions.
7. Possess a current first aid card with CPR training.
8. Demonstrated awareness of IDEA and other state and federal laws impacting the delivery of educational services to students with disabilities.
9. Carpentry and sewing skills for constructing and repairing adaptive equipment is preferred.
11. Ability to rapidly achieve competency in job performance with PT on-the-job training.
12. Core Competency courses 1-14 must be completed within 1 year of hire.

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**CONDITIONS**

The preceding list of essential functions is not exhaustive and may be supplemented as necessary.

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**UNIT AFFILIATION**

PSE – Paraeducators

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**CLASSIFICATION HISTORY**

Revised 12/84

Revised 09/95

Revised 07/03

Revised 12/05

Revised 01/06

Revised 01/08