

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SCHOOL AND CLINICAL THERAPY?

School based therapy as a related service provides assistance to a child with a disability so they can benefit from special education.

Referral Teachers, a parent or any member of a child's educational team can refer a child for therapy services.

Evaluation Upon appropriate referral, a therapist may evaluate a child using observations and appropriate tests to determine the need for intervention in the educational environment.

Team Therapists work as part of a team that can include teachers, psychologists, interventionists, and other therapy staff to create goals that can assist a child to maximize their ability to participate in the school environment. Together, the child's team determines eligibility and frequency for therapy and helps to establish IEP goals that are educationally relevant for each individual child.

Intervention School based therapy services can be provided within the classroom (Pushing In Model), via direct intervention in a one on one setting with the child, or in a small group setting. School based therapists also provide consultation and collaboration with school staff and parents/guardians.

Documentation In the form of the multifactored evaluation (initial evaluation and a re-evaluation every 3 years or upon transition from preschool to school age services) and on the IEP which is written in understandable language for the whole team.

Cost The services are free of cost to families under IDEA; however, some districts may bill Medicaid eligible students with a parent's permission.

Clinic based therapists work with any child with a medical diagnosis that requires the expertise of the therapist to address an impairment related to that diagnosis.

Referral Children are referred to a clinic based therapist by a physician or other medical professional unless a state has direct access.

Evaluation Evaluation by occupational or physical therapists includes use of appropriate tests and observation within the clinic, home, or community setting.

Team The evaluation report is used to create a plan of care that is shared with the physician and other team members.

Intervention The plan of care establishes goals and frequency of therapy and services are provided through direct intervention that is typically on a one-on-one basis.

Documentation Documentation for clinical services is typically in the form of daily treatment notes in a patient's medical chart and is usually written using appropriate billing codes with compliance for insurance reimbursement.

Cost Reimbursement for services may be limited by insurance coverage or patient's ability to pay privately.