

School-Based vs. Private Therapy Services

SCHOOL-BASED THERAPY

- Services are delivered at school by the school-based Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) and/or Occupational Therapist (OT).
- Services must impact educational performance and are tied to educational standards.
- Services are bound by legal documents referred to as an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 plan.
- Types of services -
 - **Direct services-** may include working with the child alone, but more likely in small groups (i.e. 2-4 children with differing goals), in the classroom, or a combination of these options.
 - **Indirect services-** usually involves the school SLP or OT monitoring a child to make sure they are making gains, and/or consulting with teachers/staff to assist with strategies to help the child succeed in the classroom/educational environment.



PRIVATE THERAPY

- Services are delivered at a private outpatient clinic by medically-based Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) and/or Occupational Therapist (OT).
- Services are available for children of any age, and the therapy may target skills that are not included in school-based therapy due to educational or developmental norm restrictions.
- The therapist, child and caregiver all work together as a team in assisting the child in meeting their established therapy goals via Plan of Care.
- Sessions specifically target the child's therapy goals in a way that is most effective for their engagement and learning.
- Caregivers have direct contact with the therapist after each session and are given guidance on what they can do to help in the home environment.
- Private speech therapy assists with helping children succeed in their skills who do not qualify for services and tend to "fall through the cracks" in the school system.
- Private practices accept insurance or offer a reduced rate for self-pay patients in order for families to obtain the help they need for their children.
- All services are **direct therapy services** This entails direct one to one therapy with the clinician and the child.