

## **Children's Wisconsin school-based physical and occupational therapists support students to be at their best**

Having healthy kids requires the combined efforts of families, schools, health care providers and community organizations. At Children's Wisconsin, our work extends beyond the walls of our hospitals and clinics. Our community partnerships are crucial to improving community health and well-being. To best support kids who require physical and occupational therapy in order to function optimally in the school environment, 12 Children Wisconsin therapists provide school-based care at schools in the Freedom, Kaukauna, Kimberly, Little Chute and Shiocton districts. The physical and occupational therapists work with students in both regular and special education settings to support their individualized education plans to ensure they're able to participate to the best of their abilities.

Therapists evaluate the child's ability to move throughout the school and participate in classroom activities, as well as help implement interventions to help the child participate as independently as possible. In collaboration with parents, caregivers, teachers and other educational staff, therapists help students navigate everything from different floor levels, restrooms and the cafeteria to participating in recess and sports. Occupational and physical therapy interventions help the child in both academic and non-academic settings, aiming to ensure the child is able to fulfill their role as a student.

Children's Wisconsin therapists build strong relationships with students, families and educational staff, strengthening the teams supporting kids in schools. A Fox Valley area special education teacher recently shared that the Children's therapist in her school notices students' needs and has tools, tips, tricks to help improve both student and teacher experience. Whether it's seating options, hand grips, writing tools, sensory supports, low tech or high tech supports, Children's therapist helps students succeed.

School-based occupational and physical therapists are an important part of a student's special education team and have a direct impact on students successfully meeting their short- and long-term goals.

-Children's Wisconsin-Fox Valley