



Handout #2

roles and responsibilities

EXPERT/PROFESSIONAL	ROLE
Early Childhood Special Educator	Ensures that environments and instructional strategies for young children with special needs a) facilitate children's development of social, motor, communication, self-help, cognitive, and behavioral skills; and b) facilitate independence
School Psychologist	Help children succeed academically, socially, and emotionally. They collaborate with educators, parents, and other professionals to create safe, healthy, and supportive learning environments for all children that strengthen connections between home and school. School psychologists are highly trained in both psychology and education.
Speech and Language Pathologist	Assesses and promotes children's communication skills in the context of social interactions with peers and family members in school and in the community. They are experts at speech, language and communication development.
Occupational therapist	Assesses a child's developmental and functional performance in all facets of their daily life and develops interventions to facilitate independence. They are experts at sensory and motor development.
Physical therapist	Provide services that help restore function, improve mobility, relieve pain, and prevent or limit permanent physical disabilities of children. They will help fit and find special equipment for children such as wheel chairs, prone standers, walkers.
Social worker	Assesses the family's capacity to manage basic and nurturing needs and links families to available resources. They also become involved in allegations of abuse or neglect. They may also plan and implement family services such as parent support groups, or counseling.
Parents and other family members	Provide information about their child's strengths and needs. They help assess functional skills and develop the IFSP or IEP with the team. They implement intervention strategies at home and in the community and provide critical information about the effectiveness of interventions.