

MEDICAL vs. EDUCATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

SYSTEM PARAMETER	MEDICAL MODEL	EDUCATIONAL MODEL
Eligibility	Broad interpretation of need	Need defined in educational terms, must include adverse impact on learning
Priorities	Focus on pathology and the alleviation of symptoms; concentrates on physiological and structural components of human functioning	Provide for appropriate skill development, adaptations, and modifications to maximize student's ability to access their education
Service model	Emphasis on direct service in a one-to-one treatment setting	Emphasis on the development of intervention plans which include direct/indirect, and consultative services
Location of service	Based in a medical setting such as a clinic, hospital, or private office	Based in the child's educational environment
Team Functioning	Close collaboration with medical staff	Close collaboration with educational team, including teachers and paraeducators
Role of Equipment	Intensive use of equipment, particularly high technology instruments	Assistive technology utilized as needed for instructional purposes, which includes a variety of technology as necessary to access child's education
Funding	Private funds, including third party payers such as insurance companies	Public funding, including local, state, and federal