



A Message from our Program Director

We welcome your interest in our Pediatric Physical Therapy Residency Program and applaud your desire to further your education and clinical skill development by pursuing a residency program. Our program is 13.5 months in length, running from late June through the following August, which provides an overlap of our graduating and incoming residents as well as time for the acute care experiences. Our resident must be licensed in the state of Ohio two weeks prior to starting the program, so new graduates need to sit for their National Physical Therapy Exam (NPTE) in April rather than July.

Applications are accepted through Residency and Fellowship Physical Therapy Centralized Application System (RF-PTCAS) ([link](#)). Applications typically open the first week of October and are due in late November for the following residency year.

Our residency program consists of three phases including the Developmental Competency, the Outpatient/LEND/School-based phase and the Acute Care phase. The resident works in the outpatient setting during the full-time 8-week Developmental Competency. The Developmental Competency includes specific training and education to help ensure all new hires are providing consistent and evidence-based evaluation and treatment for a developmental caseload and allows for a gradual assumption of a full caseload.

There are a number of important distinctions about our residency program:

- 1) Patient population.** Our referral sources include primary care providers as well as other specialty physicians such as physiatrists, developmental pediatricians, neurologists, orthopedists, and geneticists. Our patients range in age from newborn (including premature infants) to 21 years of age and have a diverse variety of medical, genetic, developmental and psychological conditions. In addition, our clinicians assist with medical and developmental work-ups by providing standardized testing or requesting referrals for further evaluation.
- 2) Clinical settings.** Our residency program provides clinical experiences in the settings of outpatient, acute care, school-based, and inpatient rehabilitation and observations in early intervention. We have partnered with community-based providers such as Cincinnati Public schools and Ohio Early Intervention to offer experiences in those areas. Our resident also observes in a number of multi-disciplinary clinics which provide services to children from across the region, country and world.
- 3) Cincinnati Children's and OTPT Culture.** As an academic medical center, Cincinnati Children's is consistently ranked in the top three of pediatric hospital systems and has one of the largest divisions of pediatric occupational and physical therapy clinicians in the United States. Our division places a high value on

evidence-based practice, professional development, and community service. There are a number of PTs in our division performing clinical research, participating in the development of APTA sponsored clinical practice guidelines, and serving as clinical experts for specific conditions to colleagues across the globe. At the same time, our residency faculty and division clinicians are approachable and enthusiastically support and mentor our resident. Our department hosts several evidence-based continuing education courses per year, with our clinicians as faculty due to their high level of expertise. In addition to the culture of clinical excellence espoused by our division, we also embody a mission of service with a number of wellness and community-based programs provided on an annual basis to improve the health and participation of our patient population.

4) Compensation and Benefits. The resident is compensated at 75% of a comparably experienced staff therapist and enjoys benefits at the full-time rate including paid time off, health and dental insurance and retirement.

5) Emphasis on Leadership Development, Advocacy and Culturally Competent Care. Our program emphasizes the development of leadership and advocacy skills as well as the ability to provide culturally competent care. We work to equip our graduates to serve as emerging leaders in the field of pediatric physical therapy and to be advocates for children with developmental disabilities and their families. The Leadership and Education in Neurodevelopmental and related Disabilities (LEND) Program provides curriculum and activities to develop leadership and advocacy skills as well as family centered and culturally competent care in an interdisciplinary training model.

Initially accredited in 2012, our current accreditation is valid through 2027 through the American Board of Physical Therapy Residency and Fellowship Education (ABPTRFE). Since 2014, 100% of our residency graduates who have sat for the Pediatric Clinical Specialty (PCS) examination have passed and have become Board Certified Specialists in Pediatric Physical Therapy. Our residency graduates now serve as academic educators, participate in clinical research, serve as faculty in another LEND program, lead clinical initiatives and participate in community-based services to improve the participation of children with special needs.

We are passionate in developing pediatric physical therapists who are clinical experts and capable of providing the highest level of evidence based, culturally competent and family centered care. To learn more about the structure of our program, the didactic and clinical offerings and our mentors, we invite you to browse the rest of the website. Please reach out to me directly if you have further questions about the program or the application process.

Sincerely,

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