Mission Statement:

Using a multidiscipline team approach, the Neurodevelopment Clinic strives to optimize quality of life via early identification, intervention and minimization of neurodevelopment disabilities in infants and young children.

Motto:

“Helping you to reach your true potential”

Overview

Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP)

A speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) is a specialist in the assessment, treatment and prevention of communications disorders.

Many SLPs are specialized and work with specific populations or disorders, such as child language, learning disabilities, development delays, autism articulation/phonology, fluency, voice, swallowing, dementia, and acquired brain injury.

Qualifications

- A Degree in any of these disciplines from an accredited institution, (3 to 4 year program)
- Licensed by recognized professional body
- Registered by the Bahamas Health Professions Council

Subject of focus in High School

- English Language
- Mathematics
- Biology
- Physics
- Chemistry

Personal Attributes

- Integrity and honesty
- Adequate oral and writing skills
- Ability to assume responsibilities and use initiative
- Ability to instruct and motivate others

CONSIDER A CAREER IN any of the following:

- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Psychology
- Developmental Therapy
- Speech Therapy
The Neurodevelopmental Clinic (NDC) is an outpatient Clinic that falls under the Department of Paediatrics within the Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH). Having recognized the void in service for early identification and follow-up management of infants and young children at risk for developmental delay, the Clinic was established. Services offered are specific to young children ages 0-5 years, with neurological deficits and those with the potential for neurological delays.

Neurodevelopmental delays are identified as essentially, deficits in normal growth and development, which may manifest as any or a combination of the following impairments: Neuro- motor; cognitive and language; learning; social/ emotional and adaptive skills.

Examples of some medical conditions that can result in developmental delays are: pre- maturity, low birth weight, congenital abnormalities, Down’s syndrome, autism, and various brain and spinal abnormalities, e.g. as a result of disease conditions and accidents.

The main areas of focus in this Clinic are serial screening, therapy services, data collection and research. Screening sessions are conducted on children from birth through five years of age, while therapy interventions are offered up to the age of eight years. A comprehensive evaluation is done on each child before any therapeutic intervention begins. Consideration is given to the entire family unit, as treatment and outcomes can weigh heavily on the family’s response and involvement. As a result, parents/ guardians are encouraged to become actively involved in their child’s therapy.

The Clinic uses a multidisciplinary team approach in the care and management of it’s clients, through the integration and coordination of professionals in the following areas (disciplines): neurologist/ physicians; psychology; physiotherapy; occupational therapy; early stimulation; speech and language therapy; social services and nursing. This allows for harmonization of a comprehensive service, and foster greater parent/ family participation, while enhancing the optimal development of the child.

Screening services are offered on day per week, while therapy services are conducted daily by the various disciplines. A referral is needed for access to the clinic and service is strictly by scheduled appointments.

Current operational hours are Monday through Friday, from 8:00am to 4:00pm.

Professions/ Professionals Servicing the Neurodevelopmental Clinic

- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Early Intervention (Developmental Therapy)
- Speech & Language Pathology
- Psychology
- Social Service

Physical Therapy (PT)

Physical Therapy is an allied health profession. This profession is concerned with the promotion of health, the prevention of chronic disabilities and the rehabilitation of individuals who are disabled by pain, disease or injury.

Physical Therapist

A professional trained and qualified in this field is called a Physical Therapist. The Physical Therapist utilizes his/ her acquired knowledge and skills to examine, evaluate and treat individuals whose physical ability to function has been impaired as a result of disease or injury.

The goal of the Physical Therapist in the Neurodevelopmental Clinic is to help the child reach his/ her maximum potential and promote an optional level of health and independence. As opposed to surgery or medicine, the science of Physical Therapy uses therapy uses therapeutic exercises, manual manipulation, heat, cold, electrical stimulation and other physical modalities as modes of treatment.

Occupational Therapy (OT)

Occupational Therapy is an allied health profession. This profession is concerned with the promotion of health, by improving, sustaining or restoring to the highest possible level of independence (and productivity) of an individual. This is done through the use of various techniques, purposeful activities and interventions, designed to achieve functional outcomes and to prevent further injury or disability.

Occupational Therapist

A professional trained and qualified in this field is called an Occupational Therapist. The Occupational Therapist works with individuals with disabilities, to enable them to maximize their skills and abilities. The OT assists the patient to develop, recover, or maintain the daily living and skills.

In the Neurodevelopmental Clinic, the Occupational Therapist works with infants and young children who have conditions that are developmentally, physically, mentally, socially emotionally disabling, the goal is to improve the ability to perform self help these clients achieve and/ or sustain independent, satisfying, and productive lives as they grow and develop. Occupational Therapist in their duties helps children not only to improve their basic motor functions and reasoning abilities, but also to compensate for permanent loss of function.

Developmental Therapy (DT) or Early Intervention (EI)

Developmental Therapy (Early Intervention) is an area of study that deals with all developmental skills, which include, gross motor, fine- motor, cognitive, social, self-help, and language skills in the young child. Emphasis is on the young child with developmental delays, or special needs and the value of early intervention.

Developmental Therapist or Early Intervention Officer.

A person specializing in this field is called a Developmental therapist or an Early Intervention Office (EIO). He Developmental Therapist uses an approach to actively promote social-emotional- behavioral competence by providing children with experiences based on knowledge about emotional, physical and the sequences in which children develop. This therapist designs and implements individualized programs based on each child characteristics and or developmental milestones.

I the Neurodevelopment Clinic the goal of the Developmental Therapist/ Early Intervention Officer is to stimulate the child and enhance all the developmental skills with the support of Speech, Occupational and Physical Therapists and Psychologist.

The DT works with the child by providing opportunities that stimulate their curiosity and involvement in their environment. These opportunities are provided mostly in the form of play, using toys, music, books, games, nursery rhymes etc, all relevant to the child’s age and specific needs.

Speech- Language Pathology/ Speech Therapy

Speech- Language Pathology is the study of human communication disorders. This includes disorders of speech, language and swallowing. Communication disorders can be congenital or acquired, and can affect individuals of any age.