

Children's Wisconsin's school-based physical and occupational therapy services in Northeast schools help kids play and learn

Having healthy kids requires collaboration between families, schools, health care providers and community organizations. At Children's Wisconsin, we recognize the value of community partnerships as crucial to improving community health and well-being.

Nine Children's Wisconsin therapists provide school-based care at schools in the Freedom Area, Kaukauna Area, Kimberly Area, Little Chute and Shiocton districts. They work with students in general and special education settings, supporting individualized education plans and helping kids participate more fully at school. Children's Wisconsin's 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.

Children's Wisconsin therapists evaluate how well students can move through their school and participate in classroom and social activities. They help kids learn and play as independently as possible through physical and occupational therapy interventions. Physical therapists help students navigate stairs, participate in physical education, and access playground equipment. Occupational therapists help with activities like handwriting, getting dressed for outdoor recess, participating in art class and joining activities like circle time.

Children's Wisconsin therapists build strong relationships with students, families and school staff, strengthening the team supporting kids at school. Schools cover a portion of the cost of these services, while Children's Wisconsin's community benefit investment helps provide these valuable services in schools.

One of Children's Wisconsin's school-based therapists shares, "Providing physical therapy directly within the school environment bridges the gap between clinical rehab and a child's everyday world. In outpatient care, we work on isolated skills, but in school, we are right there in real time, helping students navigate crowded hallways, join their peers on the playground, and safely access their classrooms. Being in their natural learning environment allows us to build genuine independence where it matters most to their daily life."

By providing specialized support right where kids learn and play, school-based physical and occupational therapists help students build independence and thrive at school.