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**FREQUENTLY USED TERMS AND ACRONYMS:**

Abduction The outward movement of a limb away from the body.

Adaptive Equipment Equipment offering special support which is

adapted to the child's special needs (corner

chair, prone stander).

Adduction The inward movement of a limb toward the body.

Advocacy The act of supporting or promoting a cause.

Speaking out.

AFO A short leg brace worn inside the shoe which

extends up to the calf.

Ambulatory Having the ability to walk.

Assessment Process for evaluating the child's strengths

and weaknesses and to determine his current

level of functioning.

Attention span The amount of time one is able to concentrate on a

task. Also called “attending”.

Audiometry The testing of hearing.

Augmentative The use of nonspeech techniques such as

Communication signs, gestures, or pictures to supplement a

child's speech abilities.

BMT Behavior Modification Program

Behavior Program A program written by the team that addresses the

student’s challenging behaviors.

Cause and Effect The concept that actions create reactions.

CSE Committee on Special Education

CPSE Committee on Preschool Special Educations.

Cerebral Palsy A condition caused by a nonprogressive

defect of the brain.

Clonus Rapid, rhythmic movements which results from spastic muscles.

Cognition The ability to know and understand the environment.

Conductive Hearing A loss of hearing due to ear infection, middle ear

Loss disease, or autonomic abnormalities.

Congenital Present at or before birth.

Contraction Momentary tightening of the muscle

Cue A stimulus that requires nonlinguistic

comprehension and forewarns the student of

an impending event or activity.

Developmentally Having development that is slower than

Delayed normal

Developmental A handicap or impairment beginning before the age

Disability of 18 which may be expected to continue indefinitely

and which causes a substantial disability.

Early Intervention The specialized way of interacting with infants to

minimize the effects of conditions that can delay

early development.

Echolalia A parrot‑like repetition of phrases or words

used or heard (immediate echolalia or

delayed echolalia).

Environmental Cue/ A cue taken directly from the environment to warn

Sensory Cue the student that an activity will occur or an action

is anticipated. Stimulus can be tactile, olfactory,

or visual.

Epilepsy A recurrent condition in which abnormal electrical

discharges in the brain cause seizures.

Equilibrium Balance.

Etiology The study of the cause of a disease.

Expressive Language The ability to use gestures, words, and written symbols to communicate.

Extension Limbs of trunk becoming straight or extended. The

opposite of flexion.

Facilitated A method of training people in the use of

Communication augmentative communication aids which involves the

communication partner or facilitator providing physical assistance to aid the user. Basic elements of this training include: physical support, initial training/introduction, maintaining focus, providing emotional support or encouragement, generalizing and fading.

Fine Motor Relating to the use of the small muscles of

the body such as those in the face, hands,

fingers, and toes.

Flexion The bending of joints.

Gag reflex A reflex that causes a child to gag or choke when

palate or tongue is touched.

Gross motor Relating to the use of the large muscles of the body

such as those in the legs, arms, and abdomen.

Hyperactivity A specific nervous‑system‑based difficulty

which makes it hard for a person to control

motor behavior and results in restlessness,

fidgeting and overactive movements.

Hypertonia An increased tension or spasticity of the

muscles. High tone.

Hypotonia A decreased tension of a muscle. Low tone.

IEP Individualized Education Program. The written plan

that describes what services the local education

agency has promised to provide the child.

Imitation The ability to observe the action of others

and to copy them in one's own actions. Also

known as "modeling".

Interdisciplinary A team of professionals from different fields

Team of expertise who evaluate the child and then

develop a comprehensive summary report of

his or her strengths and needs.

Involuntary Movements Uncontrolled movements.

Lower extremities The legs.

Intellectual Disability Below normal mental function. Children who

are intellectually challenged learn more slowly than

other children, but "intellectual disability"

itself does not indicate a specific level of

mental ability. The level of mental

function may not be identifiable until much later in life.

Muscle tone The amount of tension or resistance to

movement in a muscle.

Multiply‑handicapped Having more than one handicap.

OT Occupational Therapist. A therapist who specializes in improving the development of fine motor and adaptive skills.

Palmar grasp Using only fingers, not the thumb to grasp

an object in the palm of the hand.

Photo cue A photograph that represents an activity, person, or

event that is about to occur.

Pincer grasp The use of the thumb and forefinger to grasp

small objects.

Primitive Reflexes Early reflexes that usually disappear after about

6 months of age.

Prompt Input that encourages a child to perform a movement

or activity.

Prone Lying on the stomach.

Propriceptive Information arising from the body, especially from

muscles, joints, ligaments, and receptors associated

with bones. Many of the proprioceptive sensations

either do not reach consciousness or, like vestibular

linformation, comes to awareness only when attention

is deliberately focused on them. Plays an important

part in sensory integration.

PT Physical Therapist. A therapist who works

with motor skills

Range of Motion The degree of movement present in a joint.

Receptive language The ability to understand spoken and written

communications as well as gestures.

Reciprocal motion The alternate movement of arms and legs.

Recreation Therapist Professional who teaches recreation‑type activities (therapeutic swimming, music, movement, etc.).

Reflex An involuntary movement in response to

stimulation such as touch, pressure or joint

movement.

Reinforcement Providing a pleasant consequence (positive

reinforcement) or removing an unpleasant

consequence (negative reinforcement) after a

behavior in order to increase or maintain

that behavior.

Respite care Skilled adult or child care and supervision

that can be provided in the family's home or

the home of a care provider. Respite care

may be available for several hours per week

or for overnight stays.

Scoliosis Curvature of the spine.

Seizure Involuntary movement or changes in consciousness

or behavior brought on by abnormal bursts of

electrical activity in the brain.

Self‑help Relating to skills such as eating, dressing, bathing,

and cleaning which enable a person to care for himself.

Sensory Integration The ability of the central nervous system to process and

learn from sensations such as touch, sound, light, smell

and movement.

ST/SP Speech Therapist/Speech Pathologist who works to

improve speech and language skills as well as oral motor

abilities.

Subluxation Partial dislocation

Tactile defensiveness Abnormal sensitivity to touch.

Vestibular Pertaining to the sensory system located in the inner ear

that allows the body to maintain balance and enjoyably

participate in movement such as swinging and roughhousing.