



Pediatric Evaluation and Developmental Services

PEDS Team

The Pediatric Evaluation and Developmental Services or PEDS team is a group of highly trained professionals who provide comprehensive developmental evaluation and intervention services for children with special needs and their families. PEDS is a

project of the Institute for Disability Studies (IDS) at The University of Southern Mississippi. The current professions represented on the PEDS team are

Physician - A licensed pediatrician is a member of the evaluation team and will participate in diagnostic and other evaluations as needed. The physician will review the child's health history, physical examination and developmental testing results. The physician will then work with team members to develop recommendations for the family and referring health care provider.

Early Intervention Specialist - Early intervention specialists focus on all areas of a child's development. They work with the family unit as a whole to help children learn through continuous engagement, play, communication and social interaction. Early intervention specialists have master's degrees in the field of early intervention and extensive experience working with children with special needs.

Speech and Language Pathology - Speech and language pathologists work to promote expressive communication (how your child talks) and receptive communication (how your child understands). They also have expertise in oral motor issues (feeding and swallowing) as well as in the use of computers and other assistive communication devices that might promote communication.

Nursing - A nurse is a member of the evaluation team and reviews each child's health and developmental history prior to the evaluation. During the evaluation, the nurse also reviews each child's current overall health. Upon completion of the evaluation, the nurse will assist with communications to your child's primary health care provider and other medical specialists as needed and will initiate any needed referrals.

Occupational Therapy - Occupational therapists help children learn to coordinate use of their muscles and sensory skills to perform activities of daily living such as playing, dressing, eating, writing and interacting with the world. They have expertise in the use of assistive technology devices that help children with movement and help them gain access to their environment. In addition, occupational therapists have expertise in the field of sensory integration (helping children work through differences they may have with how they perceive sound, touch, textures and how their body moves in space).

Physical Therapy - Physical therapists help children use the large muscles of their body needed for moving, walking or running. They also have expertise in the use of equipment that a child might need to use in order to gain mobility and access to their environment.

Social Work - Social workers provide family support and assist with a wide variety of family issues. They also provide information and assistance to help families gain access to needed resources.

Institute for Disability Studies



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Pediatric Evaluation and Developmental Services
Telephone: 601.266.5163 or 1.888.671.0051 (TTY)
www.usm.edu/ids/peds

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