

Kristen Kaszuba

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THErapy PHILOSOPHY

Every child and family is unique and their therapy plan should reflect that by building on the strengths they possess, while supporting the challenges they still face. I strive to provide services using evidence based and best practice strategies. I utilize a family centred approach, play based therapy, as well positive behaviour supports to reach the child's and family's goals.

PEDIATRIC POPULATION EXPERIENCE

- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- attention deficit hyperactivity disorder
- behaviour management
- sensory regulation
- severe vision impairment
- feeding and oral motor skill challenges
- social skill challenges
- fine and gross motor challenges

ASSESSMENT EXPERIENCE

- Beckman Oral Motor Assessment
- Pediatric Evaluation of Disability Index
- Peabody Developmental Motor Scales 2nd Ed.
- Sensory Profile
- Sensory Processing Measure
- Miller Function and Participation Scales
- Beery VMI
- Movement ABC

PEDIATRIC OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY EXPERIENCE

Director of Company, Home Based Feeding Services

May 2021 - Present

Pediatric Foundations Corp., Calgary, Alberta

- Providing home based oral motor and environmental assessments and interventions to help children and families build functional eating and mealtime skills
- Supporting children in private based school and daycare settings to maximize their potential with play, social, and motor skills
- Collaboration with community services and other therapists/dieticians to support well-rounded development and comprehensive service delivery for children and their families

Pre-School, Community and Home Based Services

August 2012 – April 2021

I'm For Kids Team, Calgary, Alberta

- Coordinated with a multi-disciplinary team to provide play based services to help children build functional skills in classroom, home, community, and group settings
- Contributed regularly, in a team, towards the overall training of program assistants and preschool teachers by collaborating, planning, and presenting content for interactive and hands on workshops
- Created and led parent workshops to fill gaps in family knowledge
- Participated on various committees, including a workshop development committee for program assistants and a family oriented programming committee for brainstorming service delivery
- Developed, piloted, and then executed a training program for all therapy staff to use an electronic file sharing and communication platform for paperless filing, to increase productivity and streamline information sharing
- Redesigned an information sharing website for company staff, to promote increased communication and sharing of resources amongst team members

Home and Community Based Services

June 2014 – April 2021

Part-Time Sole Proprietor, Calgary, Alberta

- Utilized a variety of methods to ensure communication with a rural family and to build positive relationships with their child with autism through video conferencing, reviewing family submitted videos, telephone consultation, and face to face consultation
- Provided extensive regulation, social skills, and feeding based therapy intervention strategies

School Based Northern Alberta Rural Services

December 2011 – June 2012

Khan Communication Services, Edmonton, Alberta

(temporary part-time contract)

- Contributed to the creation of a pilot PUF pre-school class to ensure self care, fine motor, and gross motor skills were targeted daily in the classroom environment
- Consulted to teachers and educational assistants to embed evidence based interventions into daily classroom structures and routines

Home and Community Based Autism Services

December 2010 – July 2012

Centre for Autism Services Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta

- Assessed family and child needs through the use of observations, semi-structured interviews, video reviews, and formal assessments
- Employed family centred practice by focusing on family capacity and values while working in an multi-disciplinary team
- Empowered parents by teaching basic principles for determining strategy effectiveness

CONTINUING EDUCATION AND CONFERENCES

- 2003-2008 Bachelor of Science, Honours Kinesiology Co-op, University of Waterloo
- 2008-2010 Masters of Science, Occupational Therapy, McMaster University
 - Awarded the Ontario Graduate Scholarship from the Ontario Government for academic achievement and research potential twice
- 2011, 2013 Autism Awareness Conference
- 2012 Motivating Change: Strategies for Approaching Resistance
- 2012 ALERT Program on self-regulation
- 2012 Handwriting Without Tears
- 2013 Sequential Oral Sensory (SOS) Approach to Feeding : Picky Eaters to Problem Feeders
- 2014 Improving Eating Behaviours in Children with Feeding Aversions
- 2014 Is It Sensory or Is It Behaviour?
- 2014 Social Thinking (The Incredible Flexible You/We Thinkers)
- 2015 SCERTS Model Introduction
- 2015 Sensory Defensiveness: A Comprehensive Treatment Approach (Wilbarger Brushing)
- 2015 Sensory Integration and Praxis Test Course 1 (Sensory Integration Theory)
- 2016 Social Thinking (Social Executive Functioning and Social Emotional Learning)
- 2016 Beckman Oral Motor Assessment and Intervention Protocol
- 2013, 2017 Coaching in Early Childhood Education
- 2016, 2017 Occupational Therapy Student Preceptor, students from University of Alberta
- 2019 Mealtime Miseries: Management of Complex Feeding Issues Feeding Transitions
- 2020 Crumbs as a tool in Pediatric Feeding Transitions
- 2021 Feed the Peds