

Children's Therapy Center

Helping make a difference

Speaker Name: Javier Lopez

Contact Information: Children's Therapy Center
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Job Title: Occupational Therapist
Owner of Children's Therapy Center

Job Description: I work with children who have weaknesses in specific areas of their daily life. My job is to evaluate, create a treatment plan, and execute the treatment plan for the child to improve in the areas of concern. This will also involve speaking to family members, teachers, and other professionals to make sure that the child has a comprehensive treatment approach.

Company: I work for Children's Therapy Center since January 2005.

How long did it take: I graduated from Florida International University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology in 1997. In 1997, I enrolled in the occupational therapy program at Florida International University and graduated in December 1999 with a Master of Science degree in occupational therapy. After graduating, I had to pass a national exam offered by the National Board for Certification of Occupational Therapists (NBCOT) to apply for my occupational therapy license. In March 2000, I worked at a pediatric therapy company called MP Rehab Services. In 2003, I became the pediatric clinic director at Physiotherapy Associates. In 2005, I started my company, Children's Therapy Center.

Website: www.childrenstherapycenter.info

Educational requirements: Graduate from an accredited school of occupational therapy with a master's or doctoral degree. Every 2 years, I must complete 26 hours of continuing education to comply with the state of Florida renew my OT license.

Salary Range: \$75,000 - \$95,000 a year. Home health and skilled nursing facilities typically have the highest salary.

Advice on getting started: Observe or volunteer in your areas of interest. This will really let you know if you want to be an occupational therapist and if there is a specific population that you prefer to work with.