

TRANSCRIPT: Physiotherapist: Working with other staff in schools

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My role is to oversee the physiotherapy management of the children at the school. There's many and varying physiotherapy needs - wheelchair management, postural management and the provision of equipment, for example, standing frames, walking aids, splints and special shoes. I also input into the PE curriculum and hydrotherapy.

I have a training role, especially with the teaching assistants because a lot of the children use equipment and it's timetabled into their daily routine and, therefore, I need to give the teaching assistants the training to enable them to use the equipment with the children.

Changes of position are absolutely vital for our children, especially the ones who are in wheelchairs. It has certain benefits for digestion and bowel movements. I think, you need to be very clear that it is a human right to change your position regularly. Nobody wants to be sat in one position for eight hours a day. I mean, you and I, we can shuffle in our chairs, a lot of our children can't.

To teach teaching assistants how to move pupils correctly is vitally important because some of our children are very vulnerable and also it takes away that fear factor. I always say, 'If you're not sure, don't do it. Come and ask me and I'll come and show you'.

I think it's much more beneficial to work in the classroom with the actual pupil, where I'm demonstrating what to do and then I like to watch somebody, several times, do something before I can actually say that they're competent to do it.