



**Tiffany Velez, M.S., OTR/L**  
Junior Advocate / Occupational Therapist

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## **CURRICULUM VITAE**

### **EDUCATION**

**M.S. Occupational Therapy**, York College of the City of New York

**B.S. Occupational Therapy**, York College of the City of New York

### **PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS**

National Board Certified Occupational Therapist

OTA Board Certification in Pediatrics PENDING

NJDOE Approved Evaluation Provider: Occupational Therapy

NJ Licensed Occupational Therapist #46TR01013400

NJDOE School Occupational Therapist Certificate

NY Licensed Occupational Therapist #020496

### **TRAININGS/CERTIFICATIONS**

Handwriting Without Tears- Handwriting Assessment

Sensory Integration: Assessing and Treating Kids When Formal Testing Isn't Possible

Bal-A-Vis-X Rhythmic

Vestibular Rehabilitation for the School Based Therapist

Executive Functioning Training

S'COOL Moves

Executive Function at Home and at School: Smart but Scattered

Reflex Development: Testing and Integration Techniques for Clinical Application

Size Matters Handwriting Program

### **EXPERIENCE**

**Senior Occupational Therapist**, NYC Department of Education, New York, NY, 2023-Present

Provide student evaluation, staff consultation, staff training and other appropriate intervention services to facilitate high school students participation in academic activities and to promote functional independence within the context of their school day. Determine appropriate modifications, accommodations, appropriate instructional technology and/or assistive technology and academic support. Support the high demand on academics for students transitioning towards further education after highschool via executive functioning intervention. Support pre-vocational and ADL programs in order to support students reach their post-secondary goals. Emphasis on group mandate to improve overall participation in the community such as work, mobility, independent and/or assisted living. Support in transition

planning and services (from highschool to post-high school setting). Work closely with the leadership team to partake in leadership roles and projects.

**Evaluator**, AdvocacyNJ, Skillman, NJ, 2022-Present

Team member of AdvocacyNJ's NJDOE-approved evaluation center providing comprehensive evaluations on an individualized basis with meaningful recommendations.

**Junior Advocate**, AdvocacyNJ, Skillman, NJ, 2022-2023

Team member of AdvocacyNJ's advocacy team who provided guidance navigating the special education process.

**Adjunct Professor**, York College of the City of New York, Queens, NY, 2022-Present

Work closely with the Faculty Leadership team to execute the vision and development of skilled Occupational Therapists through the Occupational Therapy (OT) program. Develop presentations for an introductory course for students in the OT program. Assist students proactively and reactively to maximize potential within the program. Monitor students' performance and provide feedback or opportunities to improve student success.

**Occupational Therapist**, Lawrence Township Public Schools, Lawrence Township, NJ, 2022

Produced positive clinical outcomes through tailored interventions designed to maximize a child's potential. Fostered a collaborative environment by building rapport internally with the school's leadership team and externally with families and support systems. Collaborated with team members on creating IEPs that served as the plan for each child to achieve their goals for the year. Managed reactive issues shared by staff or family members regarding child's performance and collaborated with them to address the program while creating ongoing assessments to maximize their performance. Created and established 3 new class programs in collaboration with class staff to support their learning needs.

**Senior Occupational Therapist**, Department of Education, Greater NYC Area, NY, 2016-2022

Worked with a neurodiverse population and offered the following: evaluation, intervention, guardian/staff training, advocacy for LRE. Managed teams, multiple projects, various meetings to foster each child's growth toward their individual goals. Mentored and coached new hires on-site in the discipline and cross-discipline areas. Designed small groups and modified adaptive equipment for classroom programs. Thrived under pressure when transitioned from in-person care to teletherapy during COVID-19; learned and navigated new platforms with more excellent student attendance and performance than peers.

**Acute Care Occupational Therapist**, NYU Lutheran Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY, 2016

Worked with newly admitted clients post orthopedic, cardiac, and stroke and general medical conditions to return to functional independence. Collaborated with an interdisciplinary team to create a plan of care. Evaluated and designed a plan of care to maximize their rehab potential and optimize key performance metrics within a hospital setting. Build rapport with the client and family/caregiver to aid in therapeutic care and discharge planning.

**Level II OT Intern**, NYU Lutheran Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY, 2015

Responsible for evaluations and intervention plans with proper documentation for a full caseload with neurological, orthopedic condition and general medical conditions

**Level II OT Intern**, Mount Sinai Beth Israel, New York, NY, 2015

Documented and implemented initial assessments, progress reports, functional notes, treatment planning and goals, and discharge planning for full caseload in an acute psychiatric care unit.

Developed presentation and presented to clinical team: *Exploring Treatment Approaches in mental Illness within the Hispanic Community.*

**Level I OT Intern**, Ahava Medical and Rehabilitation Urgent Care Center, Brooklyn, NY, 2014  
Created interventions to clients to improve their ability to function under direct supervision within an orthopedic and neurological population.

**Level I OT Intern**, The Summit School, Queens, NY, 2014  
Articulated best OT practice in the school environment and collaborated with other professionals to discuss needs, progress, and program of each client.

## **VOLUNTEER/PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

**Volunteer**, Catechist, Brooklyn, NY, 2006-2021  
Collaborated with team members and families to provide instruction and development of students in preparation for their sacraments.

## **PUBLICATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

Co-authored *Case Study for Contemporary Occupational Therapy Practice*, AOTA Press

Panelist on NYSBOTC Education Committee 3/22/2023 – Discussion Re: Exploring Academia as a new Adjunct

Guest Lecture- @ CUNY York College- April 18,2023- Topic: Adaptations and Modifications: In a School Based Setting