

Amanda Speights, DHSc, OTR/L

Professional Summary

Experienced and passionate occupational therapist (OTR) with enthusiasm for scholarship, and a desire to coach. Detail-oriented, innovative, and collaborative in helping individuals achieve desired goals. A qualified clinical educator with a certification in fieldwork education from Florida Occupational Therapy Education Consortium (FLOTEC) and proven success of students and mentees. Recognized as “go-to” OT for complex neurological cases.

Academic Preparation

Doctor of Health Science

March 2021

Nova Southeastern University

Master of Science in Occupational Therapy

August 2010

Florida International University

Bachelor of Science in Food Science and Human Nutrition: Dietetics Specialization

December 2006

University of Florida

Clinical Experience

Amplio Learning – February 2022 – present

- Provide telehealth OT services to home instruction students.

Nova Southeastern University – January 2022 – present

- Telesession/Fieldwork Educator for Level I fieldwork related to practice in settings serving children and youth in educational, medical, and community settings.

eSupport Health - July 2021-present

- Lead coach for a research study in partnership with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society quantifying the benefits of a 12-week program of eSupport Health professional support groups for people with multiple sclerosis (MS).
- Manage REDCap and WordPress systems for data collection and participant contact.
- Exceeded recruitment goal (80 participants) by 40%.

Global Teletherapy – April 2021-present

- Provide telehealth OT services to home instruction students.
- Supervise COTA provision of services to brick-and-mortar students.

Baudhuin Preschool, Mailman Segal Center for Human Development, Nova Southeastern University – Davie, FL – February 2016 to July 2021

- Used various data collection sources such as standardized testing, work samples, teacher records, or observed student performance to determine the need for services and assess progress.
- Coordinate pre-service placement and serve as a fieldwork educator for NSU level 1 and level 2 Occupational Therapy students.
- Develop content and present relevant topics for staff and parent training.

EBS Healthcare – Broward County, FL - September 2015 to February 2016

- Contracted to Broward County Schools (FL).
- Managed a caseload of 35 students at 3 schools, grades K-8.
- Addressed physical, cognitive, social/emotional, sensory, and other aspects of performance in the classroom environment.
- Regularly performed activity and environmental analysis to determine strategies to reduce barriers to participation.

Blossom's Therapy Center, Inc. - Coral Gables, FL – July 2015 to September 2015

- Duties performed at Jackson Pediatric Center PPEC and main clinic site.
- Provided therapy services to children enrolled in a day medical program.
- Evaluated and treated children for therapy services under Medicaid and CMS guidelines.

Northside Hospital – Atlanta, GA – April 2013 to June 2015

- 245-bed Acute Care Hospital
- Established competency on General Medical, Neuroscience, Orthopedics, Pulmonary/Thoracic Surgery, Cancer, Bone Marrow Transplant, and Cardiac units.

Cobb Pediatric Therapy Services – Atlanta, GA - August 2012 to June 2015

- Contracted to Fulton County School System (GA).
- Managed a caseload of 30 students at 2 schools with frequencies ranging from bi-weekly to monthly.
- Evaluated and treated children ages 3-15 for fine motor skills, visual perceptual skills, school-related ADLs, self-regulation, handwriting, adapted equipment, and classroom performance/participation.

Rehab Care/Bon Secours Health System – Portsmouth, VA- June 2011 to July 2012

- 466-bed Med surge unit; primarily completing evaluations for general medical and surgical patients.

- 25-bed Acute Rehab Unit for treatment of medically stable patients with amputation, brain injury, Degenerative Neuromuscular Disorders, Multiple Trauma, Neurological Disorders, Orthopedic Conditions, Spinal Cord injuries/Disorders.

EBS Healthcare – Portsmouth, VA - August 2010 to July 2012

- Contracted to Portsmouth Public Schools (VA).
- Managed a caseload of 7 schools including students grades Preschool to Grade 12.
- Performed evaluations, attended IEP meetings, responsible for daily documentation and progress reporting, push-in/pull-out service model.

Teaching Experience

Autism Spectrum Disorder (NSU MOT Conditions Guest Lecture) – December 2020

Occupational Therapy in Preschool, OT Schoolhouse Podcast OTSH 58, September 2020

Supervision of a Level II Occupational Therapy fieldwork student [OTS], Abraham S. Fischler College of Education and School of Criminal Justice's Baudhuin Preschool September 2020-November 2020

Department of Occupational Therapy Teaching Intern, Nova Southeastern University, College of Health Care Sciences – February 2020 to April 2020

- *Delivered a guest lecture on Autism: Effect on Occupation and OT strategies.*
- *Supervised online activity sessions and facilitated virtual classes.*
- *Performed grading with supervision/feedback from the lead instructor.*

OT for Individuals with ASD (NSU MOT Pediatric Assessments & Interventions Guest Lecture) – October 2019

Occupational Therapy Process for Individuals with ASD (NSU MOT Pediatric Assessments & Interventions Guest Lecture) – March 2019

Sensory, Fine Motor, and the Occupational Therapist (NSU Honors Undergraduate Autism Today Guest Lecture) – February 2019

Autism and Occupational Therapy (NSU MOT Pediatric Assessments & Interventions Guest Lecture) – October 2018

Administering the Miller Function & Participation Scales (M-FUN) (NSU MOT Pediatric Assessments & Interventions Guest Lecture) – February 2018

Supervision of a Level II Occupational Therapy fieldwork student [OTS], Baudhuin Preschool at Nova Southeastern University's Mailman Segal Center, September 2017-November 2017

Sensory Processing Considerations for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (NSU Honors Undergraduate Autism Today Guest Lecture) – April 2017

A Primer for the New School-Based Therapist: Understanding the Role of OT in the Educational Setting (hosted on OccupationalTherapy.com) – April 2016

Scholarship/Research

Culturally Competent Telehealth Interventions to Increase Autistic Student Participation During Virtual Instruction, DHS 8140 Practicum, DHSc Program, Nova Southeastern University, March 2021

Virtual Reality Simulation in Allied Health Education: A Systematic Review, Evidence-Based Literature Review Student Contractor, President's Faculty Research and Development Grant, June 2020 - ongoing

A Primer for the New School-Based Therapist: Understanding the Role of OT in the Educational Setting (hosted on OccupationalTherapy.com), April 2016

Professional Affiliations and Service

Vice President of Education, Shark Tank Toastmasters, Toastmasters International (2021-present)

American Occupational Therapy Association (2007-2011; 2016-present)

Florida Occupational Therapy Association (2019- present)

South Florida Black Occupational Therapy Caucus (2019- present)

Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) Roster of Accreditation Evaluators (2020- 2023)

Florida Occupational Therapy Association Leadership Development Cohort 3 (2019)

National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) Standard Setting Committee (2015)

National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) Item Writer (2015-2016)

National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) Validation Committee (2015-2016)

ADVANCE Magazine for Occupational Therapy Practitioners- Editorial Advisory Board member (2015-2016)

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (2003- present)

Continuing Education and Professional Development

AOTA INSPIRE 2021, American Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference, April 2021

Clinician to Educator Series Module IV: Assessment Strategies for Teaching and Learning, AOTA Continuing Education, April 2021

A Strengths-Based Approach to Autism & Behavior, Learn Play Thrive, LLC., July 2020

DHS 8196 Theories and Principles for Health Care Educators, Nova Southeastern University, March 2020

The Roster of Accreditation Evaluators (RAE) Accreditation Evaluator Workshop, The Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), November 2019

Annual Legislative Social, Nova Southeastern University - OT Program, October 2019

FOTA Leadership Development, Florida Occupational Therapy Association, June 2019

DHS 8197 Traditional and Competency-Based Curriculum and Implementation, Nova Southeastern University, Spring 2019

DHS 8170 Leadership in Healthcare, Nova Southeastern University Health Profession Division, July 2018

DHS 8080 Conflict Resolution in Health Care, Nova Southeastern University Health Profession Division, January 2018

Supervision of a Level II Occupational Therapy fieldwork student [OTS], Baudhuin Preschool at Nova Southeastern University's Mailman Segal Center, September 2017-November 2017

Young Children with Autism: Where to Start, OccupationalTherapy.com, March 2017

Professional Licensure and Certifications

Professional Crisis Management Practitioner 1, Professional Crisis Management Association, *expires March 2022.*

Occupational Therapist Registered (OTR), National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT), *expires March 2025.*

License to Practice as an Occupational Therapist, Florida Department of Health, *expires March 2023.*

License to Practice as an Occupational Therapist, Department of Consumer Affairs, California Board of Occupational Therapy, *expires April 2022.*

License to Practice as an Occupational Therapist, Executive Council of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Examiners, Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners, *expires September 2022.*

Florida Occupational Therapy Educational Consortium (FLOTEC) Certification in Fieldwork Education (2016)

Honors and Awards

Certificate for President's Faculty Research and Development Grant, Nova Southeastern University, *Virtual Reality Simulation in Allied Health Education: A Systematic Review*, June 2020

Employee STAR Recognition Award for Scholarship/Research, Nova Southeastern University Mailman Segal Center for Human Development, August 2018