

Leslie E. Looney

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Dear Sponsor(s),

I am an occupational therapist (O.T.) working with children in the school system. I currently serve children between the ages of birth to 21 years. I make home visit with the children from birth to the age of 3, and then serve the children 3-21 in the school setting. As an OT, I work with children who have a variety of disabilities (i.e., children with intellectual, physical, sensory, deaf, blind, learning, feeding, and social-emotional impairments) on my caseload. My role is to maximize their abilities to function as independently as possible across setting at home, school, recreational, social and at work. As an O.T. I also provide training and support to the school personnel and family members who serve and help these children so that they too are physically safe and have access to specialized equipment that can facilitate independence and safety when lifting, moving, and performing skills such as toileting, bathing, and dressing to help these children to become the most functional and independent human beings possible. My current caseload of 85 children is so high that my services to these children is minimal, at best. In addition to this large caseload, I also have to drive my own car to cover a large region, travelling upwards of 1,000 miles per month to get to these locations where I serve children (home visits, 2 preschool classrooms, and 12 of the K-12 schools) in the areas of south Benton County and a large portion of Linn County. Please consider a caseload cap or a formula for determining caseload size that takes into account the travel time and distance as well as a more realistic caseload size so that OT's can have adequate time to provide OT services to enhance the lives of these under-served and vulnerable children and families right here in Oregon.

Warm regards,

Leslie E. Looney, M.S., OTR/L