



Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Pam Hundley

SCHOOL: Special Education Department

Position: Physical Therapist

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 2 years

Q. What do physical therapists do for the district?

A. I work with students who have delays in their fine or gross motor skills. I have a case load of about 50 kids across five different schools. These are the students I see weekly. I also assess students and I am able to bring this prospective to the team. Sometimes kids have trouble with writing or cutting with scissors or even behavior because of fine or gross motor skills or sensory problems.

Q. What levels of disabilities do you work with?

A. At some schools I might be working with the life skills program where I am working with the most severely impacted kids. In these cases, I am helping the teacher find appropriate activities. I also do assistive technology for the district. I have students at the high school who are in regular classes but need help with technology.

Q. What are some of the activities you do to help students?

A. If a kindergarten student comes to school and is slow with scissor skills or is unable to hold a pencil properly or they are clumsy because of poor body awareness, I would bring them into my room to do a lot of exercises to develop muscles and control. We then might move to table activities to work on improving their hand strength and their ability to use the right muscles to hold the pencil. With extra practice, many students can catch up.

Q. What do you enjoy most about being an educator?

A. Team work is the most awesome part of working in education. In each school we have a great team of people, from the teachers to the psychologists, speech therapists and intervention specialists. Everybody truly comes to the table with a genuine concern for the student who is having difficulties.

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**MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM
PAM'S CLASS:**

The nicest part of being in education is everybody has the student's best interest at heart. We are all detectives trying to figure out what is making the student have difficulties.



COMMENTS FROM PAM:

We meet with parents as a team annually to develop the Individualized Education Plan. I also attend conferences and see parents before and after school. I send home fun activities for parents to do with their children.

I grew up in Southern California and graduated from Cal State Northridge with a physical therapy degree. I also have a Master's Degree in Assistive Technology.



I moved to Washington after college and lived north of Seattle until two years ago. We were ready to get out of the wet and crowded city. I have a new Golden Retriever puppy I am trying to train to be a therapy dog.