



Melanie Jacobs, COTA/L
melaniej@locusfct.com

Melanie Jacobs has been a COTA since 2007, graduating from Durham Technical Community College in Durham, NC. Melanie is passionate about helping children and their families learn skills to become as independent as possible as they progress through childhood. Melanie has a wide knowledge base from working with the infant to adolescent population. She loves to learn new strategies as she believes a full toolbox can offer more opportunities to the children and families she serves. She has held a child passenger safety technician certification (CPST) for 4 years and volunteered with Duke Hospital's car seat clinics. She is a certified as an ADHD Clinical Services Provider, a Child Light Yoga Instructor, a Transformation Meditation Instructor, and Therapeutic Listening Program. Melanie has held the position of OTA Liaison for North Carolina Occupational Therapy Association for 4 years. During her time in school for her OTA degree, she worked in group homes for children with intellectual and physical disabilities, volunteered in hippotherapy, and was an equine coach for the Special Olympics. She completed her level II fieldwork at the Jaycee Burn Center at UNC hospital working with pediatrics. Post-graduation, Melanie worked with children in an inpatient pediatric spinal cord unit and an outpatient pediatric therapy clinic.

Melanie is particularly tuned into the needs of families as a result of:

- Educational background including OT pediatric coursework
- Advanced training in ADHD, Sensory Strategies
- Extensive volunteer and work history with children
- Passion for family centered care and equipping families with tools to successfully participate in activities of daily living.

Melanie is experienced and comfortable serving families whose children have the following diagnoses: fine motor skills, developmental delay, visual tracking and perceptual disorders, prematurity, sensory processing difficulties, autism, ADHD, cerebral palsy, spinal cord injuries, genetic conditions and musculoskeletal diagnoses.

Melanie is supervised and mentored by Elisabeth Rubin OTR/L, a supervising OT with Locus. Elisabeth mentors Melanie weekly, providing valuable experience and insights to make sure your experience with Locus is rewarding. Elisabeth herself is mentored by Beth Hathaway OTD OTR/L, a veteran OT with over 40 years of pediatric experience. As the only known private pediatric practice owner in North Carolina with a clinical doctorate degree in OT, Beth understands how to deliver evidence-based therapy. Her doctoral degree included research on how to equip and mentor providers of early intervention to provide family centered care, a topic which she is passionate about and remains a core value of therapists at Locus Family Centered Therapies. Beth has intentionally created a staff mentoring program at Locus which includes frequent contact to discuss caseloads, the ability to attend sessions alongside her staff, and contributing to their continued education through workshops and trainings.

Thank You For the Opportunity to Work With Your Child and Your Family!