



Rachel Hayes, COTA/L
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Rachel graduated from the OTA program at Durham Tech in 2021. She is experienced in working with kids from multiple fieldwork rotations with experience in telehealth, in clinic and home health. After completing her OTA Fieldwork experience with Locus Rachel knew that working with young children and families was where she wanted to launch her career. Her passion for helping children reach their potential was actually sparked in fifth grade where she began working with special needs programs through her school and continued to develop as she volunteered with the Special Olympics as a teen.

Prior to pursuing a career in occupational therapy Rachel worked in a developmental gymnastic facility specializing in helping children develop social, emotional, cognitive and physical skills from 4 months to 13 years. Rachel is passionate about using a family centered approach during her sessions, incorporating the child and family's strengths to help achieve goals. She also believes in using a creative approach to provide a holistic therapeutic experience. Rachel is skilled in incorporating creative and individualized experiences to engage the child in a variety of activities and meet each family's unique needs.

Rachel is the perfect fit for your family due to:

- Educational background including OTA pediatric coursework and Level II fieldwork experience with Locus Family Centered Therapies
- Previous work experience with Special Olympics and a developmental gymnastics program
- Skilled training in family centered care and providing services in the natural environment

Rachel is experienced and comfortable serving families whose children have the following diagnoses: **Autism; developmental delay; fine motor/handwriting; genetic conditions; sensory processing/self-regulation differences; and mealtime/feeding concerns**

Rachel is supervised and mentored by Elisabeth Rubin OTR/L, a supervising OT with Locus and member of the company's management team. Elisabeth mentors Rachel and other staff 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 35 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!