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NASSAU COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICTS
CLASS SPECIFICATION

Title : RECREATIONAL THERAPIST
Code: 220164 MIE
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Competitive

GENERAL STATEMENT OF DUTIES

Plans, organizes, and participates in therapeutic recreation activities for special education children; performs related duties as required.

COMPLEXITY OF DUTIES

Under direct supervision, the position involves developing and conducting a variety of leisure-time activities to effect improvement in patient's mental and social behavior.

TYPICAL DUTIES

1. Develops group activities such as leather work, rug making, games, yoga, etc., in accordance with patient's needs, capabilities, and interests.
2. Assesses behavioral manifestations of each patient, determining which behaviors are inappropriate and require altering.
3. Sets objectives for patients that focus on acceptable interpersonal behavior.
4. Monitors each activity for effectiveness in decreasing unacceptable behaviors.
5. Maintains records and requests supplies and equipment for activities.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES

1. Knowledge of the activities inherent in therapeutic recreation and of the means to motivate interest in them.
2. Knowledge of nature and specifications for equipment and supplies needed for the activities.
3. Knowledge of individual and group behavior and effective ways of working with patients.
4. Skill in the activity, such as music, recreation, counseling, or crafts.
5. Ability to lead, vary, and adapt the activity in accordance with patient needs.
6. Ability to observe patient behavior and report on it accurately.
7. Ability to express ideas clearly and concisely.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Training and Experience

Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university including or supplemented by course work in therapeutic recreation, recreation, the arts, industrial therapy, occupational therapy, or in leisure time activities for the handicapped.

NOTE: Experience (paid or volunteer) obtained working with hospital patients or institutional residents in the field of therapeutic recreation, recreation, the arts, industrial therapy, occupational therapy, or in leisure time activities for the handicapped may be substituted for college on a year-for-year basis up to a maximum of four years.