

Careers That Help People with Disabilities

There are many different career paths you can take that will allow you to help people with disabilities, whether you want to work with adults or children. These careers are often very rewarding and a good match for people who want to make a difference.

Direct Support Professional (DSP)

Direct Support Professionals, or DSPs, help people with daily activities like personal care, housekeeping, cooking, etc. and may transport them to appointments or social activities.

Physical, Occupational, or Speech Therapist

Physical Therapists (PT) help people with disabilities improve mobility or lessen pain. Occupational Therapists (OT) help develop and maintain skills for daily life. Speech-Language Pathologists (SLP) help people with speech-related disabilities.

Special Education Teacher

Special Education Teachers teach students with disabilities according to each student's unique written plan. They may teach in public school, private school, or a school specifically for people with disabilities.

Early Intervention Specialist

Early Intervention (EI) Specialists work specifically with infants and toddlers age 0-3. They help identify developmental delays and gaps in skills, and find ways to improve those areas through exercises or games. EI Specialists will also help perform evaluations and assessments.

Nurse Practitioner or RN

Nurses, whether in a school, hospital, or private practice, perform tests/screenings and educate individuals and their family about health. Nurses may also perform first aid and give medications. While not all disabilities have health complications, some do, which means working closely with the individual and their family.

Assistive Technology Specialist

Assistive Technology is a growing area in the disability field. Assistive tech is any tool that increases communication, learning, and independence for people with disabilities. Items like adapted writing utensils to tablets, apps, smart homes and more.

Other Jobs

Job Coach, Therapist/Psychologist, Nanny, Bus/Van Driver, Social Worker, Special Olympics Coach and More

