



## Physical Therapy

Phone: 910-868-6000

Fax: 1-866-475-8361

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### Melissa, PT, DPT

Melissa is a licensed physical therapist who received her Doctorate in Physical Therapy from MGH Institute of Health Professions in Boston in 2006. Upon graduating, Melissa worked in an outpatient setting treating pediatrics through adults for orthopedic and gait/imbalance diagnoses. She then further pursued her interest in pediatrics, working in both an inpatient and outpatient setting at Hasbro Children's Hospital in Rhode Island. There she treated a wide variety of ages from birth to young adult, including premature infants, children with orthopedic, neurological and oncology disorders as well as spent some time working in the pediatric ICU.

In 2017, Melissa transitioned to Early Intervention focusing her work on the birth to 3-year-old age range in a more natural setting. She worked with families with children with a variety of diagnoses in this setting as well, helping families navigate new diagnoses and how to best help their children reach their highest potential.

She continued working in Early Intervention until moving to North Carolina in August of 2019, where she is continuing to focus her work with the birth to 3-year-old population and their families.

### Melissa has worked with a variety of diagnoses including, but not limited to, the following:

Autism Spectrum Disorder	Down Syndrome	Orthopedic Issues	Tethered Cord
Brachial Plexus Injury	Gene Deletions	Osteogenesis Imperfecta	Toe Walking
Cerebral Palsy	Genetic/Trisomy Disorders	Prematurity	Torticollis
Cognitive Delays	Hypotonia/Hypertonia	Seizures	Traumatic Brain Injury
Developmental Delay	Neurological Disorders	Spinal Cord Injury	Visual/Hearing

### Continuing Education/Experience/In-Services:

- Routines Based Interviews in Early Intervention
- Assessment and Treatment Strategies for Pediatric Orthopedic Dysfunction
- Primer for Physical Therapists on Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Nerve Entrapments in the Upper Extremity
- Kinesiotaping 1-4
- Movement System Impairments of the Back and Hip
- Head Trauma Conference
- Pediatric Brain Injury Conference
- Utilizing Pilates Principles to Enhance Rehabilitation Outcomes

Melissa educates and assists the family to find the resources needed to allow their child to maximize their potential to succeed. She is a personable, caring therapist who believes that each child must be given all the opportunities to grow and develop to their maximum potential and reach as many gross motor milestones as they are able with the best quality of movement. She treats the whole child and not just a diagnosis since every child is so different and promoting all aspects of development are critical for a child to succeed in their motor function but also overall.

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*"We are committed to ensure that each child successfully reaches his/her highest level of functional ability."*