

## **Occupational Therapy Aide**

### **■ Job Description**

The occupational therapy aide is trained on the job to perform such tasks as preparing and cleaning treatment areas, transporting and setting up equipment, and performing general office duties.

### **■ Projected Need**

Nationally and in Illinois, employment of occupational therapy assistants and aides is expected to increase much faster than average through 2010. The need for trained personnel to perform routine clerical tasks within the occupational therapy environment will continue to increase as the demand for services rises.

### **■ Salaries**

Nationally, the median wage for this occupation is \$10.37 per hour. Half of all occupational therapy aides earn between \$8.37 and \$14.28 per hour.

In Illinois, wages range from \$7.55 per hour for beginning occupational therapy aides to \$11.99 per hour for those with experience. The median hourly wage is \$9.87.

### **■ Differences in Training**

Occupational therapy aides usually receive most of their training on the job. Qualified applicants must have a high school diploma, strong interpersonal skills, and a desire to help people in need.