**Allied Health Assistants**

* **What is an ‘AHA’?**

An Allied Health Assistant is someone who is either a certified Allied Health Assistant, or a student of Speech or Occupational Therapy. They work under the supervision of an Allied Health Professional (AHP) to perform less-complex treatment and administrative tasks.

At the moment there is a wide shortage of AHP’s, therefore, utilising AHA’s at De Silva Kids Clinic provides benefits to our therapists, our clients and their families. This is also a great opportunity for students studying a specific discipline to get great experience, before entering the workforce.

There are a few things AHA’s cannot do, such as carrying out assessments, diagnosing communication or swallowing difficulties, or developing and making changes to clients’ therapy goals. AHA’s are not a replacement for an AHP, but at times, it may be more efficient and sustainable for an AHA to offer support to a client!

* **What to expect as an AHA at De Silva Kids Clinic?**

Depending on your background and role, an AHA can be assigned both clinical and administrative tasks!

In terms of a clinical role, you will assist by providing your specific discipline of therapy to clients in the capacity of an AHA, this could be Occupational or Speech Therapy. You will provide therapy by running sessions 1:1 with clients, and working with their families to run therapy programs. You will also contribute to the clinic by creating resources for both yourself, and senior therapists.

Admin roles can include; opening and closing the clinic, greeting families, listening to their issues and tending to any questions or concerns. You may also have an opportunity to contribute to De Silva Kids Clinic’s social media posts and blogs on our website, Facebook, Linked In and Instagram.

* **Support you would receive as an AHA**

Before running sessions independently, you will begin by shadowing senior therapists. After getting an idea of how sessions at DSKC run, you will have supervision to discuss and plan client goals! After goals and interventions are outlined, independent sessions will commence.

You will always have the support of your senior therapist to turn to and there will be weekly supervision to ask about your caseload. This is also an opportunity to develop your professional knowledge and intervention repertoire! AHP’s have responsibility for all professional assessments and clinical decisions regarding client care, including developing care plans, so they will be there for support when required.

* **How to apply as an AHA**

We are often advertising on Seek with AHA positions at De Silva Kids Clinic, however if we are not and this is something you are interested in - please send your CV to our reception email: [info@desilvakc.com](mailto:info@desilvakc.com). Please include some information about yourself and why you would suit this role!