



ALL ABOUT SPEECH & LANGUAGE

Does Your Child Need Occupational Therapy? What to Look for:

Does your child...

- Have poor posture
 - o difficulty sitting cross legged on the floor or slouching over when seated at the table
 - o frequently sits in a “W” (sits on rear with knees bent and legs turned away from body)
- Frequently pick the same familiar game or activity; avoids new learning or novel situations
- Have a hard time manipulating small objects/items, using scissors, or gripping a pencil
 - o press too hard or too soft on the pencil
 - o produce illegible handwriting
- Struggle to complete age appropriate self care tasks
 - o dressing, tying shoes, manipulating fasteners, grooming and hygiene
 - o opening snack packages independently, using appropriate feeding utensils
- Have difficulty completing puzzles, word-searches, “I-Spy,” or hidden picture activities.
- Show over or under sensitivity to everyday sensory experiences
 - o irritated by certain types of clothing and tags
 - o avoids or seeks out playing with certain materials (for example: sand, play doh, Velcro)
 - o covers eyes and/or ears in response to bright lights and/or loud noises
 - o appears not to notice loud noises or bright lights
 - o seems unaware of his or her surroundings or body’s position in space
 - o overly clumsy, falls frequently, or bumps into walls/people
 - o seems hesitant on the playground with equipment or other children
- Have a difficult time walking in a line or sitting with other children for story time
- Have difficulties paying attention, following directions, or self regulating
- Miss social cues, have difficulty with eye contact, struggle with turn taking
- Have a hard time keeping his or her self and space organized
 - o Forgets homework assignments
 - o Loses track of time or misplaces items

If any of these behaviors or characteristics are impacting your child’s ability to participate successfully in his or her everyday roles, contact an occupational therapist to discuss potential need for skilled services to help your child reach his or her full potential.

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