

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

SERVICES IN THE KINDERGARTEN CLASSROOM



Occupational therapists help people with their skills for the job of living. While many people think of “occupation” as work or a job, it also means any activity a person engages in including self-care, play and leisure activities.

For a child, “work” often involves playing, learning and going to school. In the educational setting, occupational therapists work together with staff, students and their families on skills that relate to school activities, play and self-care. The occupational therapist provides strategies to the classroom teacher to assist all children in developing skills in these areas. They sometimes also work in small groups or with individual students.

Children in kindergarten receive occupational therapy screening to identify if additional assistance is needed to develop skills in fine motor, positioning, sensory processing, self-regulation, self-care, visual-perception, co-ordination and organization. Possible areas of difficulties are then assessed in further detail.

See the reverse side for more information about the services occupational therapists offer in kindergarten.

If you suspect your child is struggling in any of these areas contact your child’s teacher.



THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF THE AREAS OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS FOCUS ON IN THE CLASSROOM SETTING:

Fine-Motor Skills

The ability to draw, print, use scissors, manipulate objects and use both hands together.

Positioning

The ability to sit optimally to fully participate in classroom activities.

Sensory Processing

The ability to respond appropriately to different sensory experiences such as touch, sound and movement.

Self-Regulation and Emotional Regulation

The ability to maintain a level of alertness appropriate to a given activity.

Self-Care

The ability to dress, toilet and feed oneself.

Visual Perception

The ability to organize visual information from the environment to perform a task.

Motor Co-ordination

The ability to co-ordinate movement to perform a task.

Attention and Organization

The ability to focus and organize oneself to complete classroom tasks independently.

