Children’s Occupational Therapy Service
What is a Children's Occupational Therapist?

A children's Occupational Therapist (OT) will assess and give advice on a child's developing abilities. The purpose of this is to assist your child in managing a situation so that they can participate in day-to-day activities. This could include developing skills for hand function (for play, handwriting, using scissors etc) or developing self-help skills such as dressing or feeding. The Occupational Therapist would also assess and advise on equipment to help a child carry out everyday tasks. Examples could include specialist seating, bath and toileting equipment, or smaller items such as cutlery or scissors. For some children it is also appropriate to consider building adaptations at home or school. If building adaptations are required the OT will be working with, and on behalf of, the County Councils Children’s and Young Peoples Services.

Where and when will your child be seen?

Appointments are offered at the therapy bases/centres and can be at home, nursery or school when this is more appropriate. The service works to a priority system so for some children there may be a delay in being offered an appointment.

What happens at the first appointment?

Your child will have an initial assessment. For some children this may be a single session whilst for other children assessment may continue over several sessions. An assessment session will typically last between 45 minutes and one and a half hours. You will be given more detailed information about timing, directions and if necessary, what to bring with you (eg, examples of schoolwork) with your appointment letter. At the first appointment you will have an opportunity to discuss what you and your child are hoping to get from the Occupational Therapy service.

Who will be present at the assessment?

You will be given the name of the Occupational Therapist who will see you at the time that your appointment is arranged. Sometimes therapists will offer a joint assessment with another therapist such as a Physiotherapist or Speech and Language therapist. If the assessment is at school it is useful to involve any staff (such as teaching assistants) who have a responsibility for meeting your child's needs.
What happens after the initial assessment?

Following the assessment a report will be written and you will be sent a copy. If you are in agreement, information will also be shared with others involved in your child’s care/education to help your child. Not all children require further intervention and, if this is the case, will be discharged following advice. For those children requiring further input, details of the OT intervention will be described in the report. This may include advice on an activities programme, equipment or on housing adaptations.

Communication?

Good communication is important at all times. Please do raise any questions or concerns that you or your child may have during any part of this process.

Information sharing and consent?

Issues regarding sharing information, confidentiality, and consent to treatment will be discussed with you and written information will be available on request. If there is to be student or another colleague present, you will be asked in advance for your consent.

Feedback or complaints?

Feedback from people who use the children’s Occupational Therapy service is always welcomed. This is particularly useful when we are reviewing or developing services. If you wish to participate please let us know. If, for any reason, you need advice or have a concern relating to the OT service, we would ask you to contact the service administrator in the first instance. The number to do this is 01223 218065.
For further information about this service contact:

Children Occupational Therapy / Physiotherapy Administration
The Peacock Centre
Brookfields Campus
251 Mill Road
Cambridge
CB1 3DF

**Telephone:** 01223 218065

If you require this information in a different format such as in large print or on audio tape, or in a different language please contact the service on the details above.

If you have any compliments about this service or suggestions for improvements, contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service on 0300 131 1000 (charges may apply depending on your network) or email: ccs-tr.pals@nhs.net.

For free, confidential health advice and information 24 hours a day, 365 days a year please contact NHS 111.