

Children's Occupational Therapy Update- October 2020

Dear SENCO's,

We hope you are keeping well in these challenging times and enjoying being back in school supporting the children who need you most. We are definitely enjoying seeing children again through a mixture of video conferencing and face-face working.

Normally at this time of year, we start to see an increase in referrals to our service, for those children with possible coordination difficulties, who might be struggling with handwriting, using scissors, getting changed for PE and managing their organisation of belongings or getting around school to different classrooms etc.

Whilst we appreciate that many children have had 6 months at home and may be 'catching up', there are also a proportion of these children that would benefit from being referred to us and we would like to highlight to you of the type of difficulties to look out for. We are anxious not to delay further support for children who may have these more subtle difficulties.

We have enclosed some information about how we are currently working with regards to our service and a leaflet that we hope you might find useful to share with your teachers regarding Developmental Coordination Disorder, what to look out for in school. Our referral form is available on the Shropshire Community Health website:

<https://www.shropscommunityhealth.nhs.uk/childrens-occupational-therapy>

Please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss your concerns regarding a child or referral, we will be happy to help,

Many thanks

The Children's Occupational Therapy Team

Children's Occupational Therapy

How are we working during the Coronavirus Pandemic?

Occupational Therapy Advice Line

We are offering an email and telephone service for parents, teachers and education staff in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin:

- **Regarding a child or children's Occupational Therapy needs in respect of making a referral or re-referral to the service**
- **General queries regarding sourcing equipment or activity ideas related to occupational therapy**

Contact us on

Telephone: 01743 450800

Email: shropcom.ot4kids@nhs.net

(Please do not include any identifying information about the child/individual in emails)

Assessments:

For children who have been referred into the mainstream service, these are currently being done remotely where possible.

Parents/ carers will have an initial video call with a therapist to take a case history and discuss current concerns.

The child will then be invited to the second video call (usually a week later) with the same therapist. This call is interactive, the child may be asked to do some handwriting or drawing, use scissors, have a snack using cutlery, demonstrate some dressing (if these are areas of concern) and talk through or demonstrate other things of concern.

If we feel a child may need a diagnosis of Developmental Coordination Disorder following this they may be invited for a face-face session to complete a standardised assessment of their motor coordination, at present this is with the therapists in full PPE.

Following this appointment a report will be completed as normal and school will be contacted to discuss concerns if appropriate.

Treatment:

At present we are doing these sessions remotely when possible and these will be arranged with families to suit their needs.