MANAGING DEVELOPMENTAL CHALLENGES IN INFANTS AND TODDLERS WITH HI

Lydia Rawlins M.Ed. OTR/L
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What is Occupational Therapy?

Occupational Therapy is pediatric rehabilitation and habitative therapy designed to evaluate, treat and manage a variety of neuromuscular, skeletal or cognitive concerns in infants, children and adolescents.
**Occupational Therapy**

- Therapists specialize in the evaluation and treatment of infants, children and adolescents who are experiencing difficulties with performance of daily activities in the areas of feeding/eating, self-care, play, learning and development due to a variety of congenital or acquired disorders.
**Occupational Therapy**

- birth injuries or birth defects
- sensory processing/integrative disorders
- traumatic injuries (brain or spinal cord)
- learning problems
- autism
- Juvenile rheumatoid arthritis
- behavioral health or behavioral problems
- Broken bones other injuries
- developmental delays
- post-surgical conditions
- Burns
- spina bifida
- traumatic amputations
- cancer
- severe hand injuries
- multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, and other chronic illnesses
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

- Fine motor
- Sensory System
- Activities of Daily Living
- Visual Perceptual Skills

- Cognitive and Social Development
- Functional Movement: Gross Motor
- Adaptive Equipment
CHILDREN WITH HYPERINSULISM ARE AT RISK DEVELOPMENTALLY FOR...

- Low Tone
- Muscle Asymmetries of Neck and Hands
- Visual Perceptual Concerns
- Feeding
- Hyper or Hypo responsive to environment
- Developmental Deficits
**Signs Your Child May Need Occupational Therapy**

- **Fine motor**
  - Thumbs may be tucked
  - Arms in high guard or “W” position
  - Using legs to play with toys instead of arms
  - A lack of hand dominance by the age of 3 years
IMMATURE SENSORY PROCESSING

For any age:

- Overly sensitive to touch, movement, sights or sounds
- Under-reactive to touch movement, sounds

The Sensory System is the way the nervous system receives messages from the senses (vision, hearing, touch, taste, and smell) and turns them into appropriate motor and behavioral responses.
Activities of Daily Living
At any Age
- Avoidance of certain textures
- Disliking Baths
- Disliking Hair Washed or Combed
- Deferring Brushing Teeth
VISUAL PERCEPTUAL DEFICITS

Infant
- Use of one eye more than the other
- Use of one hand more than the other
- Inability to view certain sized objects

Toddler
- Over shooting or undershooting objects
- Unable to complete puzzles or forms typical for age
- Difficulty with eye hand tasks
COGNITIVE AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

At Any Age

- Are there any medical factors which may impact cognition?
- How is your child achieving their developmental milestones for their age?
- What opportunities does your child have to interact with peer even during prolonged hospitalizations and once they are home?
FUNCTIONAL MOVEMENT: GROSS MOTOR

Infants
- M position of Legs
- Lack of Tummy Time
- Inefficient molding of femur

Toddlers
- Inability to perform skills of jumping, running smoothly
- Difficulty or avoidance of playground tasks
SCAR MASSAGE

- Begin 6-8 weeks post surgery
- Use lotion or natural oil
- Stroke Horizontally, vertically, circularly, and diagonally.
- Continue for 1 year
Therapeutic Massage
ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT
SUGGESTIONS

- Consult Early Intervention
- Promote Tummy Time
- [www.hwtears.com](http://www.hwtears.com)
- Provide with multisensory experiences
- Consider structure activity to teach body awareness such as swimming
- Rawlins@email.chop.edu