**Educational Occupational Therapy Referral Guidance**

***What is Occupational Therapy?***

The Warrington Community Children’s Occupational Therapy team sees children and young people who have difficulty joining in with the activities they need and want to do every day.

A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generatedThe service is available for children up to the age of 16 years (up to 19 years if in a specialist educational setting).

***How can you get help?***

A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generatedYou can access our website which provides useful resources and parents, carers and education staff can access our sensory awareness videos on the following link: https://bridgewater.nhs.uk/warrington/paediatricoccupationaltherapy/

***Advice line***

If you have any questions about a child’s ability to carry out their daily activities and functional tasks or referrals you can speak to an occupational therapist who can provide advice and signposting.

***Available Wednesday mornings 9am to 11am on 01925 946097.***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***This document indicates the appropriate age to refer a child based on a specific functional difficulty. Where a column is shaded, it is not appropriate to refer at that age. Please take into consideration the child’s individual developmental stage and diagnosis that may impact on progress.*** | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | |
|  | **18 - 24**  **months** | **2 - 3 years** | **3 - 4 years** | **4 - 5 years** | **5 - 6 years** | **6 - 7 years** | **7 years** | **over 8 years** |
| **Referral indicator/ Area of child's difficulty** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Evolving complex needs or syndrome e.g. cerebral palsy |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Unable to sit unaided at nursery |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Needs environmental assessment prior to starting school (e.g. ramps, toileting, seating) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Needs assessment / review of equipment in school. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Unable to grasp and release objects |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Unable to grasp objects using a pincer grasp.  (thumb and index finger) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Unable to manipulate small objects. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Poor use of tools (cutlery, crayons, scissors etc) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Poor development of play skills (gross and fine motor) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Poor organisational skills  (organising themselves or objects around them) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Needs advice on promoting early self-care skills.  (dressing, feeding) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Unable to finger/spoon feed themselves |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Unable to use cutlery to cut up food |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Unable to take of socks and shoes |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Unable to undress without help |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Unable to dress without help |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Unable to do up buttons |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Unable to tie shoelaces |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Unable to brush teeth efficiently |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Unable to manage own toilet needs |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Appears to have inappropriate reactions/behaviour to sensory input |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Avoids/seeks sensations. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **In addition to the information above, are there also difficulties in any of the areas below:** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| mark making holding crayon/pencil between thumb and index fingers |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| drawing a vertical line |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| drawing horizontal lines, copy a circle /square |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| cursive writing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| cutting with scissors |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

***How to refer?***

A Referral to occupational therapy can now be completed by a SENCO / SENDCO or health care professional.

Referral forms can be found on the children’s Occupational Therapy website below:

https://bridgewater.nhs.uk/warrington/paediatricoccupationaltherapy/

Completed referral forms can be sent by post to:

**Warrington Children’s Occupational Therapy  
Child Development Centre  
Sandy Lane  
Orford  
Warrington  
WA2 9HY**

**Or by email to:**[**bchft.warringtonchildrensot@nhs.net.**](mailto:bchft.warringtonchildrensot@nhs.net)

***What happens next?***

Once your referral is received it will be triaged by a therapist. The referrer, parent / carer may receive a letter requesting further information or advising the referral has been accepted or declined. A reason for the declined referral will be stated on the letter.

Accepted referrals will be placed on a waiting list and they will be contacted in due course to opt in for an appointment.

If you haven’t had a response within 10 working days, please contact the service on 01925946097.

**Appointments are offered Monday – Friday.**

We offer face to face appointments.

These typically range from 60 – 90 minutes for initial assessments.

Further information can be found on the website regarding attending appointments and parking / travel.