

## **Does this child need an OT assessment?**

The following list can be used to document a child's difficulties, if you are unsure as to whether they may require occupational therapy input. If you answer yes to a number of the questions, it may be beneficial for the child to be assessed by an occupational therapist.

### **Handwriting & Scissor Skills:**

- ☐ Is his/ her writing messy or illegible?
- ☐ Does he/ she tire easily during handwriting tasks?
- ☐ Is he/ she slow to complete handwriting tasks?
- ☐ Does he/ she complain of a sore hand or arm?
- ☐ Does he/ she often break the lead in her pencil?
- ☐ Does he/ she squish her letters together, making it difficult to read?
- ☐ Does he/ she forget to leave spaces between words?
- ☐ Does he/ she often wriggle in her chair?
- ☐ Does he/ she watch her hand as he/ she writes?
- ☐ When copying, does he/ she need to look at the board for each word?
- ☐ Is he/ she often stuck for ideas during creative writing tasks?
- ☐ Does he/ she have difficulty recalling how to write letters of the alphabet?
- ☐ Does he/ she often reverse her letters?
- ☐ Does he/ she rest her head on the desk when he/ she writes?
- ☐ Does he/ she slouch or slump in her chair?
- ☐ When he/ she uses scissors, is the final product messy?
- ☐ Does he/ she find scissors hard to maneuver?

### **Reading & Spelling:**

- ☐ Does he/ she often skip words or lines when reading?
- ☐ Does he/ she forget sight words even if he/ she has read them on the previous page?
- ☐ Does he/ she confuse letters such as b and d?
- ☐ Does he/ she have difficulty matching letters with their correct sounds?
- ☐ Does he/ she have difficulty with spelling words?
- ☐ Are sight words difficult for her?

### **Following Instructions & Listening:**

- ☐ Does he/ she need reminders in order to complete a task?
- ☐ Does he/ she talk when he/ she should be listening?
- ☐ Do you need to call her names numerous times before he/ she will respond?
- ☐ Does he/ she seem continually distracted?
- ☐ Is he/ she distracted or has trouble functioning if the classroom is noisy?

### **Organisation:**

- ☐ Is his/ her desk or area always messy?

- ☐ Does he/ she forget to bring all the necessary items to school? (eg hat, swimmers, library books)
- ☐ Does he/ she forget homework tasks or not have "time" to complete them?
- ☐ Does he/ she require prompting throughout the day to stay on task?
- ☐ Is he/ she a daydreamer or does he/ she distract other children?
- ☐ Does he/ she leave behind items such as her swimming bag, hat, homework?
- ☐ Does he/ she become upset if routines are altered or changed?

### Self Care Skills:

- ☐ Does he/ she ask for help to get dressed after swimming?
- ☐ Does he/ she have difficulty or ask for assistance with tying shoelaces?
- ☐ Does he/ she need reminders to use the bathroom throughout the day?
- ☐ Does he/ she have difficulty/need assistance with opening drink bottles/lunchbox?
- ☐ Does he/ she have difficulty/need assistance with opening food wrapper? (eg. snack bar wrapper, glad wrap, popper straws etc)
- ☐ Is he/ she a messy eater?
- ☐ Does he/ she dislike having messy hands? (eg. with glue or sand)
- ☐ Does he/ she become easily upset by small injuries (ie. bruises her knee)

### Friendships & Play:

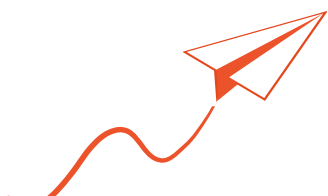
- ☐ Does he/ she have difficulty making or keeping friends?
- ☐ Does he/ she become easily frustrated or have a tantrum when things don't go her way?
- ☐ Does he/ she become bossy or the dominant character in a group?
- ☐ Does he/ she have difficulty understanding how someone is feeling on their facial expressions alone?
- ☐ Does he/ she respond negatively or avoid areas such as the sandpit or pool?
- ☐ Does he/ she have difficulty initiating play with other children?
- ☐ Does he/ she prefer to play in parallel with another child (ie. playing next to another child, but not joining their game)
- ☐ Does he/ she have difficulties with pretend play skills?

### Gross Motor Skills:

- ☐ Is he/ she clumsy or does he/ she easily trip over objects?
- ☐ Does he/ she bump into other children when lining up for class?
- ☐ Does he/ she tire easily during physical education or active tasks?
- ☐ Does he/ she avoid spinning, jumping, running activities?
- ☐ Does he/ she have difficulty with ball skills?
- ☐ Is he/ she hesitant to use playground equipment?

Please note that although you may have answered yes to a number of these questions you need to consider if they are affecting the child's ability to complete tasks efficiently. Some children develop effective ways of coping with their difficulties. If you are unsure, please email at [admin@kidsmatters.com.au](mailto:admin@kidsmatters.com.au) or call on [3392 6133](tel:33926133).

For more information see: [www.kidsmatters.com.au](http://www.kidsmatters.com.au)



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