

Enjoying and achieving

Children's occupational therapists:

- provide support for children, young people and their carers in developing independence in personal care, leisure and school skills, thereby enabling their enjoyment and ability to achieve in life
- provide advice, information and training for early years settings to promote the development of early skills for independence in daily activities
- provide advice about equipment and adapting environments to enable children with disabilities to access a range of educational and recreational activities
- enable a disabled child to join in with able bodied children by adapting environments, teaching alternative activity techniques or providing adapted equipment

Making a positive contribution

Children's occupational therapists:

- encourage children and young people to be independent and value their own strengths and abilities
- support children, families and schools to enable access to the full curriculum
- provide a range of interventions to support children and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities to develop school and work skills

Achieving economic well-being

Children's occupational therapists:

- signpost families to appropriate financial supports
- provide information about sources of equipment and adaptations funding to support families of children and young people with disabilities
- support young people and families in preparing for key transitions in life
- focus on the impact of poor housing and disabling environments for children and young people with disabilities, and provide recommendations and sources of support to improve environments
- work in mainstream schools to facilitate integration, and in special schools to maximise potential and avoid negative effects of the child's disability. This may be by provision of equipment or therapeutic intervention

Contact information

Child Development Centre

John Parkes Unit, Torbay Hospital Annexe,
Newton Road
Torquay TQ2 7BA.

Tel: 01803 655585

Children with Disability Service

Parkfield House, 38 Esplanade Road, Paignton
TQ3 2NH

Tel: 01803 402781

College of Occupational Therapists

106-114 Borough High Street
Southwark, London SE1 1LB

Tel: 020 7357 6480
www.cot.org.uk

The 'specialist section for children, young people and their families' can be found using the COT website above.

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This document can be made available in other languages, in Braille, large print and in other formats. For further information please contact 01803 402781

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“Occupational Therapists work with people of all ages, helping them to carry out the activities that they need or want to do in order to lead healthy and fulfilling lives.”

(College of Occupational Therapists, 2005)

This leaflet is designed to tell you what standards of service you can expect from children’s occupational therapy in Torbay. It will also tell you how we help children achieve the outcomes set out in Every Child Matters

Standards – a summary

Copies of our full standards are available from your occupational therapist. These are the standards we aim to meet. If, for some reason, we are unable to meet these standards in your case, we will discuss these reasons with you. If you have any concerns, please discuss these with your therapist, contact us or use our comments and feedback leaflet.

1. If you contact us about occupational therapy services for children, including equipment and adaptations in your home, we will explain about what services are available for your child and how we will assess you for them if appropriate.
2. We will let you know if you don’t qualify for occupational therapy services and let you know the reasons why.
3. We will make sure children with the most urgent needs are seen first. We will take into account the child’s age, functional difficulties and any risk factors.

4. We will contact you within three working days of receiving your request to let you know if there will be a delay in seeing you and your child
5. In most cases we will see you and your child within 3 months.
6. We will make a convenient appointment with you to assess the needs of your child and family.
7. We will discuss the assessment with you and agree an action plan in partnership with you and your child.
8. We will give you a copy of the occupational therapy assessment and / or action plan.
9. We will provide you with equipment within four weeks of the assessment, unless it has to be specially ordered for you, when it may take longer.
10. If we cannot meet these timescales we will tell you why and when you can expect a service
11. If you are receiving a ongoing occupational therapy service, we will review your child’s needs at least once a year at a time arranged with you.
12. We will ensure fair and equitable access to occupational therapy services regardless of gender, race, culture, age or disability.
13. We will ensure the quality of our service including the provision of clear information about making complements or complaints

Every Child Matters: Change for Children

Every Child Matters: Change for Children is a new approach to the well-being of children and young people from birth to age 19. The Government’s aim is for every child, whatever their background or their circumstances, to have the support they need to:

1. Be healthy
2. Stay safe
3. Enjoy and achieve
4. Make a positive contribution
5. Achieve economic well-being

How do children’s occupational therapists help children achieve the outcomes set out in Every Child Matters?

Being healthy

Children’s occupational therapists:

- provide support to parents and carers to develop and maintain their child’s independence in their daily activities (occupations)
- promote the development of children’s functional skills
- promote the development of physical and mental health by using activity in a therapeutic way
- specifically address a wide range of health needs and functional skills for children with

learning difficulties and disabilities

- promote a 24 hour postural management approach, including prescription of special seating to encourage function and sleep systems to discourage further deformity
- encourage control over the environment and social activities

Staying safe

Children’s occupational therapists:

- inform children and young people and their carers about risks to their safety in terms of manual handling and environmental concerns
- provide individual advice, information, instruction and equipment to minimise manual handling and environmental risks
- adapt environments to create safe and accessible spaces for children with learning difficulties and disabilities where appropriate
- physically and emotionally support parents and carers of disabled children to manage their caring needs
- carry out preventative work by offering advice and information to parents, carers, children, teachers and others on all aspects of the management of a disabled child
- work in partnership with other agencies to protect children from abuse
- work in partnership with other agencies to provide the best possible integrated service for children with special needs and disabilities