

Speech/Language, Occupational, & Physical Therapies

October, 2020 Newsletter



Occupational Therapists and Physical Therapists in the school setting support a student's ability to participate in the educational setting. We look at the underlying gross motor (balance, locomotion), fine motor, visual motor, perceptual, and sensory issues that may be contributing to difficulties in a student's performance within the classroom and school.

Speech/Language Pathologists in the school setting support a student's ability to participate academically and socially in the educational setting. SLPs work with students to develop their communication skills. Students receive support in a variety of areas, such as articulation, receptive/expressive language and vocabulary, fluency (stuttering), alternative communication, and social language.

Children need good pinching skills (index finger and thumb) to manipulate their environment. Suggestions to work on pinching skills with your child:

- Use tongs, tweezers, or clothespins to pick up objects
- Playdoh activities (Playdoh tools or using hands to make objects like people or animals, using stamps/molds with the Playdoh), silly putty (putting a few together to make a larger piece and hide items in it to find or roll out like a snake to cut it into pieces)
- Connect 4 or Cheerio games, picking up pennies or small objects
- To support gross motor development, encourage playground play (jumping, climbing, dancing, playing with a ball, swinging, and sliding).

Children need conversation skills to interact with peers and adults. Suggestions to work on conversation/storytelling skills with your child:

- Comment on a topic of conversation before introducing a new topic.
- Provide visuals, such as pictures or objects, to help tell a story in sequence
- Show how nonverbal signals are important for communication. Talk about what happens when facial expressions don't match the emotion expressed when speaking (e.g. using angry words when smiling)
- Look at your conversation partner so that they know you're thinking about them.

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