

## PATIENT INFORMATION

# Devon Children's Occupational Therapy Service

### Information Guide

Welcome to Devon Children's Occupational Therapy Service

We specialise in working with children and young people aged from birth to 18 years. We evaluate children's physical, sensory, emotional and social needs.

### **More about us**

We work in partnership with you and recognise that you know your child best.

We will help you to identify your child's difficulties in their daily life, by assessing their needs and helping them to be as independent as possible.

We use play and purposeful activities to help your child achieve their goals.

### **Which children do we see?**

We see children with:

- Physical disabilities
- Gross motor coordination difficulties
- Fine motor and handwriting difficulties
- Perceptual difficulties
- Sensory processing difficulties
- Sensory impairments
- Developmental delays
- Social and communication disorders
- Learning disabilities

## What services do we provide?

- **Equipment:** We assess for the provision of special equipment to encourage independence in all areas of daily life e.g. seating and bathing.
- **Access and adaptations:** We assess both home and school environments advising on adaptations which assist your child to access these independently. We do this in conjunction with other professionals.
- **Activities of daily living:** We provide advice, assessment and training for programmes to develop independence in activities such as dressing, bathing, toileting and feeding.
- **Education:** We assess, give advice and plan intervention to minimise gross and fine motor difficulties, sensory and development problems which may arise for your child in nursery schools, primary and secondary schools. We support development of the skills your child needs to engage and participate in school.
- **Play:** We recognise the importance of play and leisure activities in the development of your child's skills. We will always consider this as part of our assessment.

## How does the service work?

When the OT service has been contacted about your child, you may be sent a form to complete so we can identify the difficulties your child is experiencing. We may contact you to discuss their needs and offer you some strategies you can use at home whilst you wait for an assessment.

Your child may be asked to participate in a Fun-Fit programme in school to improve their movement skills and co-ordination.

Once your child has been referred to us, they are placed on a waiting list. Prioritisation is based on age, the level of need, and the length of time they have been waiting. We will offer you an appointment as soon as possible.

We will assess your child in one of our clinics, in school or at your home as required. We will discuss your child's difficulties with you and your child and carry out an assessment. Based on this, we will give appropriate advice, set goals and plan intervention if necessary.

We may carry out intervention on an individual or group basis, in a clinic, home or school, for a limited number of sessions.

We often use home and school programmes to integrate treatment activities into real life situations, which will need the support of parents and teachers, to maximise the effectiveness of treatment. Children are discharged from our service once intervention is complete, but can be re-referred if further needs arise in the future.

## Who can refer into the service?

We receive referrals from consultants, paediatricians, school medical officers, GPs, educational psychologists, special educational needs coordinators (SENCOs), schools, other health professionals, parents and carers.

## How is information used and shared?

We use the information to:

- Record important health and social care information
- Help professionals to care for your child
- Provide appropriate support and care to children, young people and families
- Develop and improve services and measure how well we are doing

We will only share information about a child/young person with your consent unless required by law or the data is anonymised. However in some circumstances, when we feel that your child or others are at risk, we may share information without consent.

If you would like to talk to us about your child's records or if you have any questions please write to the Data Protection Officer (Head of Information Governance) at:

Data Access & Disclosure Office  
Kitson Hall  
Torbay Hospital  
Lowes Bridge  
Torquay TQ2 7AA

Or email [dataprotection.tsdf@nhs.net](mailto:dataprotection.tsdf@nhs.net)

## Non-English speakers and other formats

We provide all our leaflets in other languages and formats. Please let us know if you would like a different format or language.

## Our commitment to you and your child

Children and Family Health Devon takes your dignity and privacy very seriously and we will at all times respect your confidentiality. Please treat our staff with respect so we can provide you with the very best care we can.

Ask a member of staff for a copy of *Your rights and responsibilities*.

## What if you have a concern?

We are committed to providing you with the best service possible. We are always looking for ways to improve the service and would like to hear comments, compliments, or complaints. You can fill out one of our feedback forms or tell a member of the team.

Alternatively, if you would like to make an official complaint, please ask a member of staff, or visit our website for a copy of our *What if I have a concern* leaflet.

## **Get in touch**

Children and Family Health Devon is proud to provide Devon Children's Occupational Therapy Service.

There are children's occupational therapy teams based in:

### **Northern Devon**

Springfield Court  
Fishleigh Road  
Barnstaple EX31 3UD  
T: 01271 384 072

### **Eastern Devon**

1 Capital Court (Unit 1A)  
Bittern Road  
Sowton Industrial Estate  
Exeter EX2 7FW  
T: 01392 383 764 or 383 768

### **Southern Devon**

Lescaze Offices  
Shinners Bridge  
Dartington Nr Totnes TQ9 6JD  
T: 01803 763 616

## **Your Notes**

[www.childrenandfamilyhealthdevon.nhs.uk](http://www.childrenandfamilyhealthdevon.nhs.uk)

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For further assistance or to receive this information in a different format, please contact the department which created this leaflet.