

WHEN SHOULD YOU PURSUE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY FOR A CHILD?

Consider seeking an evaluation with a therapist if a child demonstrates any of these issues.

BIRTH TO 2 MONTHS:

- Does not grasp objects placed near palm

3 MONTHS:

- Does not follow an object with her eyes
- Hands remain closed almost all of the time
- Frequently resists being held
- Becomes upset when moved, as when being picked up, laid down, or handed from one familiar person to another

4 MONTHS:

- Does not swipe at or reach for objects
- Does not bring hands or objects to his mouth
- Frequently irritable for no apparent reason
- Does not place both hands on her bottle while being fed

5 MONTHS:

- Does not hold his own bottle
- Doesn't smile at his image in a mirror

6 MONTHS:

- Involuntarily drops objects after only a few minutes
- Does not actively grasp large finger foods such as teething cookies when they are placed on the highchair tray
- Is excessively and consistently upset by leaving the home

7 MONTHS:

- Does not transfer an object from one hand to the other

10 MONTHS:

- Not beginning to pick up small objects
- Does not poke with index finger
- Is not accepting a variety of food textures
- Is excessively upset by being dressed, diapered, bathed, or having hair groomed

12 MONTHS:

- Isn't able to pick up a cheerio or other small object with tip of the thumb and the tip of the index finger -Is not sleeping through the night most of the time
- Is not interested in exploring toys made for one year olds
- Is excessively upset by sound of siren, barking dog, vacuum cleaner, or other familiar loud noises

15 MONTHS

- Cannot put a one inch object into a container with a slightly bigger opening
- Cannot stack two cubes
- Cannot put a round form into a round shape on a puzzle

18 MONTHS

- Cannot point to a few of the following body parts: eyes, nose, mouth, hair, tummy, legs, feet, and hands
- Cannot turn pages of a cardboard book, or regular small book two or three pages at a time
- Cannot stack four books

24 MONTHS:

- Play with toys only by tapping, shaking, or throwing
- Cannot unscrew top of a one inch or two inch bottle
- Cannot remove socks, untied shoes, or pull on pants without help

30 MONTHS:

- Cannot imitate drawing a vertical line or a circular scribble on paper immediately after seeing an adult draw these lines
- Cannot stack eight to ten cubes
- Cannot imitate drawing a horizontal line immediately after seeing an adult draw a horizontal line

36 MONTHS:

- Cannot remove all pull on clothing after fasteners have been undone
- Does not imitate the actions of adults in the home
- Does not pretend during play