



Pediatric Therapy Network

Developmental Checklist for Children (5 to 13 years of age)

If your child has difficulty with three or more criteria listed below, it is recommended that you contact Joan Surfus, OTD, OTR/L, SWC at 310.328.0276 x524 to discuss the need for further assessment.

Fine Motor Development Challenges

- ◇ Holds markers, crayons, pencils awkwardly for their age?
- ◇ Drawing, coloring, copying or cutting compared to same age children?
- ◇ Lacks hand dominance after age four?
- ◇ Controlling grasp (too tight or too loose) after age five?
- ◇ Using both hands together in a coordinated manner?
- ◇ Drawing age appropriate shapes and letters compared to same age peers?
- ◇ Demonstrates poor legibility of written work if in elementary school?
- ◇ Managing clothing fasteners for their age?
- ◇ Managing food containers or silverware for their age?

Gross Motor Development Challenges

- ◇ Appears clumsy?
- ◇ Awkward walking patterns?
- ◇ Difficulty learning new motor patterns?
- ◇ Fatigues easily?
- ◇ Poor posture?
- ◇ Floppy or have low muscle tone?
- ◇ Avoids age appropriate playground or ball games?
- ◇ Catching or throwing a ball compared to same age peers?
- ◇ Independently dressing themselves for their age?
- ◇ Sitting still?

Visual Development Challenges

- ◇ Recognizing same and different?
- ◇ Reading across a page fluently despite knowing how to read?
- ◇ Following a moving object i.e. catching a ball?
- ◇ Poor eye contact when speaking to others?
- ◇ Has difficulty with puzzles?
- ◇ Loses their place when copying from the board or reading?
- ◇ Locating objects around the room?

Oral Motor Development Challenges

- ◇ Gags or becomes distressed at the thought or smell of certain foods?
- ◇ Tends to be a picky eater?
- ◇ Coordinating chewing and swallowing?
- ◇ Chews or licks non-food items excessively?
- ◇ Drools past age two?
- ◇ Overstuffs food into mouth?

Tactile Development Challenges

- ◇ Over reacts or under reacts to pain compared to same aged children?
- ◇ Avoids or craves messy activities more than other children?
- ◇ Appears sensitive to certain textures or fabrics?
- ◇ Seems unaware of cuts and bruises?
- ◇ Dislikes being touched?
- ◇ Seeks out rough play with peers, frequently crashing or bumping?
- ◇ Unaware of others' personal space?
- ◇ Unaware of food on their face or a runny nose?

Vestibular Development Challenges

- ◇ Falls frequently?
- ◇ Poor balance?
- ◇ Gets car sick?
- ◇ Fears or seeks out swinging, sliding, stairs or activities requiring balance?
- ◇ Gets dizzy easily?
- ◇ Never seems to get dizzy?
- ◇ Enjoys twirling, spinning or rocking more than other children?

Speech and Language Challenges

- ◇ Speech is difficult to understand?
- ◇ Answering simple questions or following simple directions?
- ◇ Rarely carries on a conversation?
- ◇ Rarely formulates five to seven word sentences?
- ◇ Frequently responds to statements or questions with "what" or "huh"?
- ◇ Grasping details or main ideas in stories?
- ◇ Disinterested or lost when listening?
- ◇ Uses nonverbal gestures instead of words?

Attention Challenges

- ◇ Organizing toys or materials?
- ◇ Poor work habits?
- ◇ Needs more verbal cuing to complete age appropriate tasks than others?
- ◇ Short attention span?
- ◇ Transitioning from one activity to another?
- ◇ Easily frustrated?

Social and Emotional Challenges

- ◇ Making and keeping friends?
- ◇ Shy or reserved around others?
- ◇ Overly friendly with strangers?
- ◇ Aggressive or impulsive behaviors?
- ◇ Regulating their emotions?
- ◇ Dealing with bullies at school?
- ◇ Cooperative and interactive play?
- ◇ Participating in and maintaining conversations?
- ◇ Resolving conflict or expressing needs?