What is an Occupational Therapy Evaluation?

What do I need to do before my child's evaluation?

- Complete the Occupational Therapy Questionnaire included in your new patient packet prior to your evaluation.

- Please answer all of the questions about your child's health and development information.

- Send us any information from your child's pediatrician or developmental physician that is pertinent to your child's diagnosis.

- A copy of your child's current IEP and OT testing results.

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An occupational therapy program is designed after a complete evaluation. Many tools are used for the evaluation. Some are standardized (scored on a statistical standard) and some are criterion referenced (performances are judged on an average performance scale for a specific age group). Another form is clinical observation: the Occupational Therapist looks at the style and form with which the child does specific tasks.

What can I expect during the evaluation?

The evaluation might be used to find out information about your child's:

Sensory Processing Skills
The way the body takes in and processes information, which includes the five sensory systems:

- Visual—how your child processes what he sees
- Auditory—how your child processes what he hears
- Tactile—how your child processes what he touches
- Vestibular—how your child processes himself in motion
- Proprioceptive—how your child processes his actual movement

Motor planning: the way your child can plan and make movements

Self regulation: the way your child calms himself

Visual-Motor and Visual-Perceptual Skills
- Handwriting
- Cutting and scissors

Upper Extremity Use
- Strength
- Range of motion
- Using both hands together (bilateral skills)

Gross Motor Control
- Motor control—how well your child moves
- Coordination
- Strength

Activities of Daily Living
- Dressing
- Grooming
- Feeding—feeding self and the ability to eat a variety of foods