



## Therapy in Praxis

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### THERAPY IN PRAXIS

#### The Role of the Occupational Therapist

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##### **...developing abilities for all children with needs**

Therapy in Praxis aims to support the team around the child. We recognise just how important it is for a child to experience success and for the well-being of the family and support system to be able to see measurable changes in every area of the child's life.

We have found this comprehensive approach leads to lasting results not only in a therapeutic setting but also in the child's natural 'teaching' environments, home, school and community.

##### **The Occupational Therapist**

Occupational Therapists working with children observe a child's occupations. these are the things that the child needs to be able to do to live their lives and fulfil their occupational roles, i.e., to be part of a family, to play, to look after themselves, make friends and go to school to learn!

The primary goals of the Occupational Therapist are to help the child develop, restore and maintain these skills, behaviours and relationships necessary for independent living.

Function and participation is at the centre of our practice – we may use a range of standardised measures and offer treatment approaches including neurodevelopmental [Bobath] and sensory integration frames of reference. We assess the child's performance and skills in activities that are meaningful to the child. When problems are identified we can help the child to gain the relevant skills or adapt the environment, or make adjustments and compensations for functional challenges. This enables the child to be more productive and satisfied in their development and learning.

##### **The Role of the Occupational Therapist**

Our Occupational Therapists play a significant role in helping a child and the family to adapt to the challenges imposed on everyday life by a physical, psychological or learning disabilities, including;

- providing support to identify the most appropriate nursery, school or college placement supporting housing projects including working with architects on major and minor adaptations
- identifying equipment to maximise independence leisure and learning opportunities
- facilitating access to a wide range of leisure opportunities
- recognising that older children have unique needs, different experiences and aspirations
- implementing packages of therapy to maximise the young person's abilities and opportunities
- working with the young person and their wider team as necessary to develop compensatory strategies for organisational and planning challenges
- teaching independence in living skills including personal care, domestic and financial / community management needs