

Section 2: Introduction:

A brief word on co-ordination...

Children with co-ordination difficulties sometimes wait for a considerable length of time before they are formally assessed or treated. This is not only a problem in this region but also a national issue.

There is also plenty of confusion with regards to terminology. The term “Dyspraxia” is commonly used and is often misleading, as it is a subdivision of the diagnosis of “Developmental Co-ordination disorder” (DCD). The child who is “Dyspraxic” demonstrates different difficulties to that of a child with DCD with the problems stemming from poor planning and initiation of tasks that involve “what?” and “how?”. The treatment and strategies given are therefore likely to be different from general DCD advice. The advice in this pack can be used for both children with DCD and Dyspraxia and the symptoms you may see are listed overleaf.

Unfortunately some people are mistakenly under the impression that Occupational Therapists diagnose Dyspraxia or even Dyslexia. Following our assessment we send a copy of our report (which includes observed difficulties) to the Doctor, which will assist them in making a formal diagnosis.

There are some children who will not be considered to have a type of developmental co-ordination disorder:

- Children with a learning disability
- Children with global developmental delay
- Children with a physical disability (e.g. Cerebral palsy, Spina bifida etc)