

Swindon Paediatric Occupational Therapy



What is a Paediatric Occupational Therapist?

Paediatric occupational therapists support children and young people to learn skills and join in with everyday activities that allow them to reach their potential and become more independent.

A child's or young person's daily activities (occupations) may include:

- Self-care – for example, dressing, using cutlery, making a snack.
- Being productive - for example activities at school, using a pencil, having the correct seat for learning, being able to cope with the sensory environment of the educational setting, having the necessary hand skills to manipulate toys or equipment in the educational setting.
- Leisure – playing or carrying out chosen hobbies, for example riding a bike.

What can I expect at my child's first, assessment appointment?



We will see you at The Salt Way Centre. There is plenty of free parking if you are arriving by car.

If you are arriving by bus, the bus number 1/1A stops at the end of Pearl Road. It departs from the town centre Fleming Way bus stop G every 10 minutes or from the Link Centre Bus stop E every 10 minutes.

You may want to bring any doctors letters or information from your child's school.

The first appointment will last between 60 – 90 minutes.

The assessment will involve talking about what is working well but also what the young person is finding difficult.

We may also carry out some practical assessments of your child's physical skills, for example looking at how the hands work but also balance skills, balls skills, dressing skills etc.

What happens after my child's assessment?

After the assessment we may offer occupational therapy by:

- **Giving you ideas and suggestions to try with your child**
- **Inviting you to a parent/carer group**
- **Offering 1-1 sessions with your child.**

Where will my child receive occupational therapy?

Your child will be seen at The Salt Way Centre. We may also visit your child at school if your child has an EHCP. Schools can 'purchase' occupational therapy to support your child if there are school based needs. Parent/carer groups will also take place at The Salt Way Centre.

Working together.

We respect that you know your child better than anyone and we will work with you to achieve the activities your child wants to get better at.

We ask that you are able to commit to attending all of the sessions offered and that you are able to commit to practicing the ideas and suggestions given by your occupational therapist at home.

If you are not able to attend an appointment please contact the department as soon as possible.

If you do not attend your appointment without contacting us, your child may be discharged from the service.

Where are we based?

The Salt Way Centre

Pearl Road

Swindon

SN5 5TD

Tel: 01793 464246