



Primary School Developmental Checklist

This checklist is designed to help you identify when to seek the help of an Occupational Therapist for a primary school student.

Go to the section for the student's year and tick the box for each skill the student has. If any box is unticked, we recommend you seek the advice of an Occupational Therapist. Further information about Occupational Therapy is provided at the end of this checklist.

If a student has an unusual, repetitive or ritualistic behaviours, an Occupational Therapist should be consulted as soon as possible.

Year 1

Does the student?

- Respond to sensory stimuli (sound, smell, etc) appropriately
- Sit at their desk or on the floor for an activity without excessive fidgeting, sliding off the chair, or falling
- Follow and remember the school day routine
- Print their name clearly
- Copy shapes and symbols (square, triangle, circle)
- Cut with scissors around a curved edge
- Show awareness of others' feelings and adapt to these



Year 2

Does the student?

- Respond to sensory stimuli (sound, smell etc) appropriately
- Follow and remember the school day routine
- Interact with peers appropriately in the classroom and playground
- Write all letters of the alphabet correctly (no letter reversals such as 'b' for 'd')
- Use a capital letter at the start of a sentence
- Understand reasoning and make the right decisions
- Tell the time; know the days, months, and seasons



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Year 3

Does the student?

- Seek to understand the reasons for things and show logical, organised thinking
- Have preferences and strengths in some activities and subjects
- Manipulate small objects (e.g., marbles) in their hands in a fast and controlled manner
- Copy shapes such as diamonds and overlapping lines
- Write letters evenly and space words correctly
- Copy from the board in an appropriate time frame
- Complete hand and finger sequential movements with eyes closed
- Interact with peers and teachers appropriately in the classroom and playground setting
- Make friends easily and prefer to play in a group

Year 4 and 5

Does the student?

- Show awareness of and follow school rules
- Want social approval and show they want to live up to expectations
- Participate in team games, showing an understanding of strategy
- Display fluid and automatic handwriting skills with appropriate speed. Handwriting does not deteriorate across a sentence
- Show good awareness of their self in space (doesn't bump into or trip over things regularly)
- Sit and focus for approximately 45 minutes at a time



What is Occupational Therapy?

Occupational Therapy helps people to be successful in their occupations – the things they do every day. For school students, this includes making friends, participating in class routines, following school rules, getting dressed, and participating in sports.



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