

## Occupational Therapy at the EEU

Occupational therapists work to help people do the things they need and want to do. Examples of occupations in the preschool and kindergarten school setting are participation in play, school routines and activities, and academic activities such as pre-writing or writing.

Occupational therapists look at the interaction between the person, environment and occupation. For example, if a child need support with writing or pre-writing we may work on hand strengthening (person), modified seating (environment) or adjusting the pre-writing task (occupation), or a combination of these things, depending on the needs of the child.

Occupational therapy may be provided as a **Related Service**, with direct and indirect intervention provided to children or as **Support for School Personnel** in which the OT provides consultative services to the school team. The type of service provided is documented in the child's Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Rarely, OT can also provide **Motor SDI**.

Examples of some of the areas where OT can support students include:

- Fine motor skills (eg: prewriting, scissor skills, coloring etc.)
- Visual-motor skills (eg: copying a picture, completing a puzzle)
- Social Skills/Regulation (self-awareness and self-advocacy regarding sensory needs, regulation strategies)

Occupational Therapists' work can support all levels of the building blocks. At the bottom block OT can provide support for a quality early childhood program through schoolwide or universal design elements such as sensory spaces that benefit all children. We also work with

teaching teams on curriculum modifications and adaptations and supporting embedded learning opportunities as well as at the top block working with individual children who qualify for OT services.

The circles below represent some of the areas OT can provide support at the different levels of the building blocks.

