

What to Expect in Occupational Therapy

Welcome to Paeds in a Pod, where our mission is to support children and their families on the journey towards greater independence and well-being. Occupational therapy (OT) can be a crucial part of this journey, addressing a wide range of needs from sensory processing and motor skills to daily living activities. Here's what you can expect when your child starts OT with us.

1. The Initial Assessment

The first step in our process is a comprehensive assessment. This helps us understand your child's unique strengths and challenges. During this session, our skilled therapists will:

- Review your child's medical and developmental history.
- Conduct standardised tests to evaluate motor skills, sensory processing, and daily living abilities.
- Observe your child during play and everyday tasks.
- Discuss your goals and concerns as a parent.

2. Goal Setting

Based on the assessment, we will work with you to set specific, achievable goals for your child. These goals are tailored to your child's needs and may include improving fine motor skills, enhancing sensory processing, increasing independence in daily activities, and more.

3. Customized Therapy Plans

Each child's therapy plan is personalised to meet their unique needs. Our therapy sessions may include:

- **Sensory Integration:** Activities that help your child process and respond to sensory information more effectively.
- **Fine Motor Skills:** Exercises to improve hand-eye coordination, dexterity, and strength.

- **Gross Motor Skills:** Activities that build core strength, balance, and coordination.
- **Daily Living Skills:** Practical tasks like dressing, eating, and grooming to promote independence.
- **Social Skills:** Group activities and role-playing to enhance interaction and communication with peers.

4. What to Expect During Sessions

Therapy sessions are typically structured and engaging, incorporating play-based activities that make learning enjoyable. Parents are encouraged to be involved, as your support and understanding are vital to your child's progress. Here's a glimpse of a typical session:

1. **Warm-Up:** Engaging in fun activities to get your child moving and ready for the session.
2. **Targeted Activities:** Focused exercises addressing your child's specific goals.
3. **Cool-Down:** Relaxing activities to help your child transition smoothly out of the session.

5. At-Home Activities

Therapy doesn't stop when the session ends. Our therapists will provide you with activities and strategies to continue at home. This might include:

- Sensory play ideas
- Fine and gross motor exercises
- Techniques for daily living tasks
- Behavioural and emotional regulation strategies

6. Progress Monitoring

We regularly assess and track your child's progress, adjusting the therapy plan as needed. You will have regular meetings with your therapist to discuss achievements, challenges, and next steps.

7. Tips for Parents

- **Stay Informed:** Ask questions and seek clarification whenever needed
- **Be Patient:** Progress can take time, and small steps forward are still steps in the right direction
- **Consistent Practice:** Reinforcing therapy activities at home is key to your child's success
- **Celebrate Successes:** Acknowledge and celebrate your child's achievements, no matter how small

A Message from Tara

Welcome to Paeds in a Pod. Our dedicated team is committed to providing personalised, compassionate care that meets the unique needs of each child we serve.

At Paeds in a Pod, we believe in the power of a supportive and collaborative approach to therapy. We recognise that you, as parents and caregivers, play a crucial role in your child's progress. We are here to support not only your child but also your family as a whole, ensuring that you have the tools and knowledge to foster success beyond our sessions.

We understand that starting occupational therapy can be both an exciting and overwhelming experience. Our goal is to make this journey as smooth and positive as possible. From the initial assessment to the ongoing sessions, we are committed to working closely with you to achieve meaningful and lasting improvements in your child's life.

We look forward to partnering with you and celebrating each milestone along the way.



Tara Bortolon
Occupational Therapist

"Occupational therapy is not just about helping children achieve their fullest potential; it's about empowering them to find joy and confidence in every step of their journey."

Contact Us

If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at info@paedsinapod.com

Paeds in a Pod

Address: 411 East Main Street, Welland, ON L3B 3X3

Phone: 519-904-2716

Website: www.paedsinapod.com