

Dosthill Primary Academy

SEND Newsletter

Issue 6- February 2025



Dear Parents and carers,

Welcome to our monthly SEND newsletter for February. In this newsletter I will be sharing information about the Occupational Therapist Service which is available to support children who struggle to complete everyday activities due to physical or sensory difficulties.

As always, if you have any suggestions on aspects of SEND that you would like me to focus on, I am more than happy to consider these.

Please do email me or speak to the office if you would like to arrange to meet or for me to contact you. senco@dosthill.org.

Mrs Katie Smith
SENCO

Spotlight on Occupational Therapy Service

[Resources for Parents: Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust](#)

The overall aim of the Children's Occupational Therapy (OT) service in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent is to help children who have either a physical disability, a motor coordination or sensory difficulty to do the things they want and need to do in life.

This helps them to:

- participate in their home life, school life, and in wider society
- become as independent as possible in childhood and adulthood
- reach their full potential
- achieve a good quality of life

You may have concerns about your child's ability to carry out a range of physical activities – these could include writing, self-care such as using cutlery, riding a bike or being able to use scissors.

Referrals can be made to the OT by a GP or via your school SENDCO. Please speak to your class teacher or myself if you have concerns.

The Midlands Occupational Therapist Service also has a range of information on their website for activities you can do to support your child's needs such as the one below related to handwriting.

Supporting children to develop handwriting skills

TYPICAL PENCIL GRASP DEVELOPMENT FOR HANDWRITING



Developing a pincer and tripod grip

The use of a pincer grip helps establish a tripod pencil hold needed for maximum efficiency.

You can help support your child if they are struggling to use a tripod grip when holding a pencil by some using some of these activities:

- Peg board or travel games – frustration, travel connect 4, battleships, mini pop- up pirate.
- Clothes Pegs – sorting pompoms, making dinosaur or hedgehog spikes on a cut out.
- Wind-up toys.
- Tiddlywinks
- Stamp pads & ink.
- Creative art – rip & stick, stickers, bendaroos.
- Sew, plait and weave— scoobie strings, hair braiding dolls.
- Threading & lacing – making jewellery, threading beads, cotton reels etc.
- Use small chalks or writing tools to write, i.e. 2cm long pieces.
- Clay, dough or plasticine to pull small pieces of dough between thumb and index finger.



Children's Occupational Therapy

Below are some additional resources you could access if you want help or advice in supporting your child with their motor abilities or sensory needs.

[Occupational Therapy Parent Toolbox - The OT Toolbox](#)

[A-Z of activities - RCOT](#)

[7 Occupational Therapy Activities to Try At Home | NAPA Centre](#)

Dates for your diaries

28.2.25- Form to be sent out offering 1:1 or telephone meetings for ILP reviews.

5.3.25- Form closes.

W/C 10.3.24- ILP Reviews.

Parent/Carer Cause for Concern

Please email to senco@dosthill.org to return to Mrs Smith, SENCO.

This is the link to an MS Forms version: <https://forms.office.com/e/F4SnWgsGxC?origin=lprLink>

Child's Name: **D.O.B:** **Class:**
.....

Child's strengths and achievements:

Concerns at home:

Concerns at school:

Parent/Carer information:

A description of all available information about your child.

Areas of concern:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visual | <input type="checkbox"/> Auditory | <input type="checkbox"/> Communication/Speech |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emotional | <input type="checkbox"/> Behaviour | <input type="checkbox"/> Attendance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Physical | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical | <input type="checkbox"/> Punctuality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social | <input type="checkbox"/> Eating | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please state): |

Signed: **Date:**
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