

Occupational Therapy.

Endeavour Academy employs an Occupational Therapist who works within the school full time. Sian assess each student and based on the results from the assessments; student's strengths and difficulties are identified. These are used to set individual goals to implement intervention (treatment) strategies which are developmentally appropriate. To accomplish these goals each student is supported via direct or indirect O.T. input. Treatment promotes motor development, learning, play, sensory processing and the development of adaptive and self-care skills.

Endeavour aims to assist our students to develop skills for life at home, school and in the community. Our students have difficulties with sensory processing and motor skills that impact on their participation in activities.

Sensory processing refers to how we recognize and respond to information from our bodies and the environment (the position and movement of body parts) and the environment (tastes, sounds, smells and information from sight and touch). Gross motor skills involve the large muscles of the body that enable functions such as walking, kicking, sitting upright, lifting and throwing a ball. A person's gross motor skills depend on both muscle tone and strength. Fine motor skills include the ability to manipulate small objects, transfer objects from hand to hand, and complete hand-eye co-ordination tasks.

The aim of Occupational Therapy (OT) is to support our students to better regulate their sensory input and participate in activities more independently. This may be done by adapting the task or the environment or by using specific activities to improve the difficulties experienced. OT also work with school staff and parents so that they can join in with the same programme and help their children to achieve independence. This enables the students to orient, focus attention on meaningful events and maintain an alert but relaxed state.

OT intervention at Endeavour Academy includes:

- Observation and assessment of how individual students' sensory processing difficulties and motor skills impact on their participation in activities of daily life.
- Individual sensory diets, including daily sensory circuits and sensory ladders. Classroom strategies and access to sensory equipment throughout the day.
- Weekly 1:1 Sensory Integration Treatment carried out by a therapist with post-graduate training to address sensory and motor difficulties.
- Trialing of strategies, environmental adaptations and equipment to support students' participation, understanding and comfort in a range of academic, self-care and leisure activities.
- Implementation and monitoring individual programmes to work on the development of specific skills.
- Providing support, modelling, advice and training to all Endeavour staff on addressing sensory processing and motor difficulties and supporting independence.
- Liaison and joint working with teaching staff.



Target game



Messy Play Foam



Glider Swing Foam



Deep Pressure



Sensory Circuit