

SEND Newsletter

Issue 13– February 2025



Dear Parents and carers,

Welcome to our February SEND and Inclusion newsletter. This newsletter we are sharing about the Occupational Therapist Service which is available to support children who struggle to complete everyday activities because of physical or sensory difficulties.

Please remember if you have any concerns or questions please contact me through SEND@Ankermoor.org or **Speak to the office and I can arrange a meeting or phone call.**

Shirley-Anne Magill SENDCO

Please come and join us at the next
Parent Inclusion Meeting



Wednesday 5th March 2025
2.15pm at Ankermoor Primary School

Please join us for an informal meeting with other parents where we will be focusing on supporting children's speech, language and communication needs.

Refreshments will be provided.

For any questions please contact the school office or email
send@ankermoor.org



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, ride a bike or be able to use scissors.

Referrals can be made to the OT by a GP or your school SENDCO. Please speak to your class teacher 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.

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

Supporting children to develop handwriting skills

TYPICAL PENCIL GRASP DEVELOPMENT FOR HANDWRITING

10 Months
Pincer Grasp



12-15 Months
Palmar Supinate Grasp



2-3 Years
Digital Pronate Grasp



3-4 Years
Quadrupod Grasp



3-4 Years
Static Tripod Grasp



5-6 Years
Dynamic Tripod Grasp



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

The following are other resources you could use if you want help or advice regarding helping 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](#)



Parent/Carer Cause for Concern

This form is for parents who want to raise a new concern regarding their child in relation to Special Educational needs.

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:**

Please email to SEND@Ankermoor.org to return to Mrs Magill, SENDCO