

# Emerge



## A Child's Place

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Occupational Therapy  
Speech Therapy

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Serving children from birth  
to 14 years old

Using therapy to improve  
conditions such as:

Delayed Speech  
Dyspraxia  
Speech Impairments  
Non-communicative Speech  
Oral/Verbal Apraxia  
Language Disorders  
Feeding Difficulties  
Autism/Asperger's/PDD  
Developmental Delay  
Cerebral Palsy  
Sensory Integration  
Disorders  
Sensory Modulation  
Disorders  
Handwriting Impairments  
Fine & Gross Motor Delays

A Private, Independent  
Provider

[www.EmergeAChildsPlace.com](http://www.EmergeAChildsPlace.com)

## School-Based and Clinic-Based Therapy What's the Difference?



Bonnie Hacker, OT  
Founder / Director

When doctors recommend occupational or speech therapy for school-aged patients, some parents may respond that their children already receive therapy through the public school system. However, a doctor's medical goals or the family's functional goals and the goals of the school's therapist often differ. Understanding the difference between school-based therapy and clinic-based therapy will help families avoid the false impression that services are being duplicated. More importantly, understanding the difference will help families avoid the pitfall of refusing helpful, clinic-based therapy because of the false impression.

For the most part, public schools deliver speech or occupational therapy under the orders of the Individuals with Disabilities Act - Part B. To qualify for services, children must meet the Act's definition of being disabled. The Act states that school-based therapy must focus only on goals that are related to a child's ability to benefit from special education. Therefore, school-based therapy puts emphasis on functional oral and written communication skills. Challenges that affect a child's ability to function normally at home or in the broader community may be excluded from therapy. For instance, speech impediments may not fall under the Individuals with Disabilities Act because a stutter or trouble forming Rs would not necessarily interfere with learning at school.

On the other hand, clinic-based therapy takes a more global outlook on the well-being of the child and the family. At Emerge - A Child's Place, therapists will often coordinate with teachers, school-therapists, and physicians. Emerge focuses first on defining the underlying foundations of each child's challenges. Subsequent therapy focuses on those foundations with goals that encompass success at home, school, public, and later adult life.

### Specific Differences

- School-based therapy typically ends when the child no longer requires therapeutic intervention to perform school tasks. Therapy at Emerge ends when a child has reached maximum potential or when the family can continue the therapy maintenance independently.
- When choosing a clinic-based therapy program, families can look for specific training or certifications among their therapy providers.
- Emerge is free to directly address issues of articulation, picky-eating, coordination, tactile hypersensitivity, self-care, etc. School-based therapy must limit itself to goals that relate directly to benefiting from school education.
- With Emerge, productive therapy can begin before grade school and give a child the best possible head start on his or her individual school career.
- With Emerge, parents and doctors have more say in the frequency of treatment and the goals of therapy.
- Emerge involves parents in therapy and teaches parents ways to help and support their child's development.

Emerge



Please tell parents about

**Emerge - A Child's Place**

*Believing in a Child's Potential to Flourish*