

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

Classroom Success Strategies for Children with SPD, ADD/ADHD



Bonnie Hacker, OT
Founder / Director

We often talk about improving a child's academic potential by improving a child's capacity to acquire and develop specific skills and abilities. However, we have thus far neglected the topic of how the actual classroom situation can be modified to facilitate proper classroom behavior and learning when a child has a sensory processing disorder. There are a number of strategies teachers can easily employ to facilitate learning for children with sensory processing challenges.

Classroom strategies that work for some children include:

- Alternative seating for distracted children. Using a therapy ball or inflated seat cushion for children who need additional stimulation can help them focus.
- Teach more complex problem solving tasks in the morning. Research suggests the highest activity level for ADHD children occurs between noon and 2:00.
- For students who need more motor input, allow them to present their own visual information by motoric means (e.g. allow them to flip their own flip cards).
- Heavy lifting projects: giving high energy children specific duties such as carrying a stack of books to the library can help them focus when they return to the classroom.
- For children with impulsivity challenges, use rehearsal and role playing to teach conflict resolution, social entry, and emotional control.
- Avoid restricting high energy children from recess as a disciplinary consequence. Recess helps these children focus, and restricting certain children from it is likely to set them up for more failure after recess.
- Children who need additional stimulation to concentrate may benefit from an item to chew on or something to play with in their non-dominant hand (e.g. a stress ball).
- Children who need fewer distractions might benefit from ear plugs or sound occluding headphones.
- Children who need more stimulation may benefit from wearing a neoprene or weighted vest at school.

Unfortunately, the same techniques do not work for all children. Because children with sensory processing disorders respond to stimuli differently, techniques that are successful with one child could exacerbate the disorder of another child. For this reason, Emerge - A Child's Place provides a number of services to help parents and teachers modify the classroom experience for specific children. Of course, Emerge performs expert evaluations that will identify exact differences and allow for productive planning. This evaluation often includes a school observation. After an evaluation, Emerge therapists work with both the parents and the teachers to optimize a child's school performance. Emerge also provides in-services for teachers on an ability-to-pay basis, including free sessions if needed.



**Evaluation, Individualized
Strategies, and Parent
Coaching for Specific
Children**

**In-Services for teachers on an
ability-to-pay basis**



Affordable Care at Emerge - A Child's Place

Many parents find that insurance coverage for pediatric occupational or speech therapy is often limited. In these cases, Emerge has even more to offer in addition to uncompromising quality of care and excellent facilities. Even though the quality of care at Emerge is at the highest levels, you will find the fees at Emerge to be the most affordable.

**Please tell parents about Emerge - A Child's Place
Believing in a Child's Potential to Flourish**