




## How to Know When a School Aged Child Needs Occupational Therapy (OT)

OT services are likely needed when a school-aged child (5-18 years) experiences difficulty with:

<p><b>Handwriting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awkward or fistled grasp</li> <li>Incorrect letter or number formation</li> <li>Difficulty writing on or inside the lines</li> <li>Inconsistent sizing of letters</li> <li>Avoids writing</li> <li>Holds head in hand while writing</li> <li>Presses too hard on pencil and paper</li> <li>Takes longer time to finish written work than peers</li> <li>Written work is messy</li> </ul> 	<p><b>Reading</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Skipping words</li> <li>Skipping lines</li> <li>Substituting words</li> <li>Has difficulty with transitions from one line to the next</li> <li>Avoids reading out loud in groups</li> </ul> <p><b>Spelling</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reverses letters</li> <li>Reverses order of letters</li> <li>Substitutes letters</li> </ul>
<p><b>Math</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Slow to get math concepts</li> <li>Difficulty counting objects</li> <li>Difficulty lining up numbers in a column for math problems</li> <li>Reverses numbers</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cutting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoids cutting</li> <li>Requires great effort</li> <li>Snips rather than large cuts</li> <li>Appears awkward with cutting</li> <li>Frequently asks for help with cutting</li> </ul> 
<p><b>Coloring</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has difficulty staying in the lines</li> <li>Presses too hard with crayon/marker</li> <li>Rushes to finish</li> <li>General poor quality of coloring projects</li> <li>Avoids coloring activities</li> </ul>	<p><b>Gross Motor Skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Looks clumsy/awkward</li> <li>Frequent falls/stumbles</li> <li>Poor balance</li> <li>Bumps into things</li> <li>Difficulty with catching and throwing</li> </ul>
<p><b>Behavior</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overactive</li> <li>Excitable</li> <li>Impulsive</li> <li>Disturbs other students</li> <li>Fidgety</li> <li>Inattentive</li> </ul>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distractible</li> <li>Low frustration tolerance</li> <li>Short attention span</li> <li>Quick mood changes</li> <li>Aggressive</li> <li>Isolates self from other kids</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Has a diagnosis of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learning disability</li> <li>Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)</li> <li>Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)</li> <li>Down Syndrome</li> <li>Developmental Delay</li> <li>Autism Spectrum Disorder</li> </ul>	

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's development or to schedule an occupational therapy evaluation please contact Billings Clinic Pediatric Therapy at **406-238-5676** or visit our website at [www.billingsclinic.com/pediatrictherapy](http://www.billingsclinic.com/pediatrictherapy).

We provide outpatient pediatric speech therapy, occupational therapy and physical therapy services to children 0 – 18 years.