

Red flags for Referral to Occupational Therapy

Motor Development

	6 months	9months	12 months	18 months	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years	6 years
Fine motor skills	Not holding and reaching for toys Hands clenched into a fist frequently	Unable to hold and release toys Cannot move toy from one hand to another	Unable to pick up small items with index finger and thumb Cannot imitate clapping hands	Cannot hold a crayon and scribble Does not attempt to build a tower with blocks when shown	No interest in self-care skills, (feeding, dressing) Unable to imitate a vertical line Still using a fistful grasp to hold a crayon	Difficulty helping with self-care skills (e.g. feeding, dressing) Difficulty manipulating and threading beads Not able to snip with scissors	Unable to draw lines and circles Not using a tripod grasp to hold a crayon	Concerns about school readiness Not independent in eating and dressing Not able to draw simple pictures, e.g. stick figure person Not able to copy their name	Not able to copy letters of the alphabet Cannot write any letters of the alphabet independently
Gross motor skills	Not rolling Not holding head up or propping self up on arms when on tummy	Not sitting without support Not moving (creeping/ attempting to crawl)	Not crawling or bottom shuffling Not pulling to stand Not standing holding on to	Not attempting to walk without support Not standing alone	Unable to run Unable to use stairs when holding on Unable to	Not running well Cannot walk up and down stairs Cannot kick or throw a	Cannot pedal a tricycle Cannot catch/throw or kick a ball Cannot balance well	Awkward when walking, running, climbing or using stairs Ball skills are very	Not able to perform star jumps

		Does not take weight well on legs when held by an adult	furniture		throw a ball	ball Cannot jump with two feet together	standing on one leg	different to peers Unable to hop 5 times on each foot	
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Sensory Development

- Very busy, always on the go and has a very short attention span with regards to tasks
- Often very lethargic (appears to be tired/slow to respond all the time, even after a nap)
- A picky eater
- Not aware of when they get hurt (no crying/not startled)
- Afraid of swinging activities and does not like to be picked up or to be upside down
- Showing difficulty learning new activities
- Having a hard time calming themselves down appropriately when angry, upset or excited.
- Appearing to be constantly moving around/fidgeting, even when sitting
- Showing poor/no eye contact
- Frequently jumping/purposely falling or bumping/crashing into things
- Constantly touching everything and everyone that they see
- Not aware of safety when playing
- Very floppy muscles
- Having a difficult time transitioning between activities
- Unable to tolerate changes in routines
- Hates bath time or grooming activities such as washing/brushing hair, cutting nails
- Afraid of or aversive to messy play activities or touching different textured materials