

## Criteria B – SENSORY EDUCATION SESSION PATHWAY

This is the criteria for referral for children who have sensory **modulation difficulties**. The service is to deliver a workshop providing generic information about sensory modulation to parent / guardians (school staff can attend upon request). Children do not attend the workshop. Within the workshop parents / guardians are introduced to a range of commonly used generic sensory strategies to trial at home with their child.

The OT service does not provide individual assessments, treatment or written reports for children referred via the sensory strategy pathway as OT staff do not meet the child.

### Who can refer?

- Referrals into this pathway by DCD team therapists who has seen the child through the DCD pathway and identified possible modulation difficulties.
- Referrals accepted from Paediatricians, Psychiatrists and GP's directly into service.  
(If a diagnosis of developmental co-ordination disorder (DCD) is being considered and a motor skill assessment is required please refer via the OT DCD Pathway)

### What is the referral criteria?

- Children aged between 4 – 18 years in mainstream schools. In exceptional circumstances referrals for children outside this age range or children in special education school setting may be accepted.
- Children must be presenting with modulation difficulties, tactile sensitivity, auditory or visual sensitivity which is impacting on functional skill or learning.
- Please consider when making referrals to the sensory service whether the child is displaying symptoms commonly seen in children with Autism (e.g. stimming) rather than sensory behaviours.
- The referral form must indicate how the sensory difficulties impact on daily life and functional skills.
- The service **will not** accept referrals for the following:
  - Feeding problems in isolation of any other sensory needs
  - Olfactory problems
  - Auditory problems which are very specific to loud noises such as bells, sirens, fireworks. Referrals will be accepted for children who cannot engage in activities such as going to the supermarket or parties, being in the playground, dining room or classroom.
  - Tactile problems which involve the child touching things inappropriately, minor clothing intolerances such as not liking socks or certain types of fabric, labels, or tight clothing but the child is still able to wear a range of different clothing. Child can manage with minor adjustments e.g. seamless socks, labels cut out etc.

### **What is the assessment process?**

- Following receipt of the referral, the parents / guardians are placed on a waiting list for the next available Sensory education session – held at Cherry Tree House, Clatterbridge Hospital.
- Parent/ Guardians are invited to attend an education session to learn more about sensory modulation. They are given a pack containing sensory strategies including heavy muscle work/ resistance exercises. If the parent/guardian do not attend this session, they will be invited on one further occasion to attend. The second invite letter will clearly state that unless contact is made with the department, their child will be discharged from the service and will require a new referral if the family choose to engage with the service in the future.
- School staff are welcome to attend the Sensory education session at Cherry Tree House, Clatterbridge Hospital upon request.
- Referrals will not be accepted for children whose parent / guardian (s) have already been see through the pathway and have previously attended the Sensory education session.

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