

Shropshire Community Health Trust Children's Occupational Service

Update to schools from our Mainstream Team for Children with Motor Coordination Difficulties

Hello all,

We wanted to get in touch to update you on developments within our service.

We support children who have physical motor coordination difficulties which are significantly impacting on their ability to complete day-to-day functional activities (*please see and display the attached infographic*).

Research shows that an estimated 2 to 5 children in every classroom will have motor skills difficulties that are significant enough that they would meet the criteria for a diagnosis of a specific movement disorder (Developmental Coordination Disorder). Early identification and support has a significant impact on these children's future (physical health, economic, academic, and mental health) so it is important that they are identified and referred to specialist services, such as this team.

Referrals for this group of children have dropped across the UK but we are keen to reverse this within Shropshire. We have committed to participating in the research gathering stage in an exciting new evidence-based assessment tool (FunMoves) that has been developed by researchers at Bradford University.

FunMoves is designed for Years 1-6 and provides the school an individual assessment report of movement skills for each child. It is quick and easy to administer for whole classes at a time. Better still, it is free!

If you are interested in your school taking part, please see our website for details.

www.shropscommunityhealth.nhs.uk/CHOT-schools-nurseries

We are planning to run training sessions on the PD days in September 2026, hoping to train as many schools as possible within one session. It would be perfect if you are part of a group of schools or willing to host other schools from your area. These sessions will be allocated on a first come basis. Please get in touch if you are interested.

We don't have a long waiting list and are keen to support these children, so please refer to us.

Our website

www.shropscommunityhealth.nhs.uk/childrens-occupational-therapy

We have worked hard to develop resources on our website for home and schools, so please check it out (and share with parents).

- Cool kids

The training video and all resources can be accessed at any time – much more convenient for staff training.

- Sensory offer

No need for referral!

- Parents can watch the first sensory workshop and book onto a webinar directly from the website
www.shropscommunityhealth.nhs.uk/chot-senses
- We have also developed a training video for school staff to develop their skills when supporting sensory differences within the school environment
www.shropscommunityhealth.nhs.uk/CHOT-schools-nurseries
- Resources – Please check out our resource page for lots of practical ideas to support children and young people
www.shropscommunityhealth.nhs.uk/chot-senses-resources

We are working hard to make our service as accessible as possible and have some new developments that we are working on, so please keep checking our website. We are also developing/simplifying our referral form so watch this space!

In the Classroom

I struggle to use classroom equipment such as scissors, ruler or stapler.

I struggle to copy from the board.

I may have an immature pencil grasp or swap the hand I hold the pencil with. .

I am just as clever as my peers so there is usually a big difference between what I know and what I write down. I can spell but my writing may be really difficult to read or looks messy.

**If you see me,
I might have Developmental
Coordination Disorder (DCD).
A referral to
Occupational Therapy
could benefit me.**



Moving and shaking

I have difficulties with more complex activities such as swimming or riding a bike.

I look clumsy when I run and find it difficult to hop, skip and balance.

My Day

I'm friendly and sociable and want to join in but find sports or outdoor play difficult. I may prefer imaginary play.

Everyday activities such as getting dressed, tying shoe laces, buttons or zips are really difficult.

I can be a messy eater. I struggle to use a knife and fork, often knock over my glass and spill food when eating.

Around School

I often trip, fall, walk into or drop things.

I may appear clumsy, awkward or inefficient with my movements

It takes a lot of effort for me to learn new motor activities. I find it easier if you break them into smaller steps or let me have more time.

Although I may 'get there', I often struggle to learn new motor activities and so may prefer to do things I've already learnt instead of learning new motor skills

DCD affects 5-6% of population but movement difficulties impacting on function will affect many more. We can help.

Contact Us

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