



Choosing a Private Occupational Therapist

It is important to find the right occupational therapist who will be able to provide the best service for you and your child. Make sure you let the therapist know about what your main concerns are for your child. Some questions are outlined below which you may like to ask the occupational therapist before making a decision about which service provider to use.

The occupational therapists skills and experience

- What is the occupational therapists area of speciality?
- What age group will the occupational therapist see?
- How many years of clinical experience does the occupational therapist have?
- All occupational therapists working in Australia need to be registered. There is a list of all registered occupational therapists on-line at www.ahpra.gov.au

Services that are offered

- When are appointments available - specific days of the week, availability of after hours appointments?
- Where will the service be provided - school visits, home based or clinic based?
- What types of programs are offered - on an individual basis or in groups?
- How long are the sessions?
- Are there programs available in the school holidays?
- How much parent/ carer involvement is expected?

Costs

- What are the costs of the assessment and if needed, treatment sessions?
- Is the occupational therapist a registered Medicare provider? You may be eligible for a Medicare rebate through the 'Chronic Disease Management' or 'Better Access to Mental Health' if you are referred by your GP.
- Children under 6 years and with a diagnosis of Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Fragile X Syndrome or who a moderate or greater vision or hearing impairment may be eligible to access funding through the 'Better Start for Children with Disability' federal funding. Children with an Autism diagnosis may be able to access funding through the 'Helping Children with Autism' federal funding. See www.fahcsia.gov.au
- Is the occupational therapist registered as a provider for any private health insurance companies? If so, what are the details of the rebate?
- Is a report included in the assessment price?

Working with government service providers/ other agencies

If your child is already accessing other services in the public sector or is on the waitlist for another service then let the private occupational therapist know this and check that they would be willing to coordinate between services as needed.

If your child needs to access other health professionals then check whether the private occupational therapists work in conjunction with any other health professionals.