

Emerge



A Child's Place

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Occupational Therapy Speech Therapy

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3905 University Drive
Durham, NC 27707

Serving children from birth to adolescence

Using therapy to improve conditions such as:

Delayed Speech
Developmental Coordination
Disorder
Speech Impairments
Non-communicative Speech
Oral/Verbal Apraxia
Language Disorders
Feeding Difficulties
Autism/Asperger's/PDD
Developmental Delay
Cerebral Palsy
Sensory Integration
Disorders
Sensory Modulation
Disorders
Handwriting Impairments
Fine & Gross Motor Delays

A Private, Independent
Provider



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The OCD – Sensory Correlation



Bonnie Hacker, OT
Founder / Director

A study recently pre-released by *Journal of Behavioral Therapy and Experimental Psychiatry* shows a strong correlation between sensory hypersensitivity and obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) (Dar R, et al. The Relationship between sensory processing, childhood rituals and obsessive-compulsive symptoms. *J Behav Ther Exp Psychiatry*. 2012; 43(1): 679-84). Using a number of screening tools related to anxiety, sensory hypersensitivity, and obsessive-compulsive behavior, researchers surveyed the parents of 61 children ages 4 to 6 with OCD, and they surveyed 314 adults with OCD. Even after adjusting for anxiety, strong reactions to everyday sensory events correlated highly with childhood ritualism.

Specifically, it is oral and tactile hypersensitivity that correlate with OCD symptoms. Signs of ritualistic / OCD behaviors in children include:

- Child's daily separation from a parent involves a ritual
- Child's preparations for bed involve a rigid ritual
- Child must be beside a parent to fall asleep
- Child doesn't like to place trash in a public trash can
- Hateful statements followed closely by loving behavior
- Child requests things be stated a particular way (e.g. "baby doll" vs. "doll baby")
- Child repeats certain movement such as touch and retouching a chair or light switch



It is suggested that improvement of oral and tactile hypersensitivity through sensory integration programs could be one pathway toward modulating OCD symptoms in pediatric patients. In fact, some of the behaviors characteristic of childhood OCD overlap specific behaviors addressed in pediatric speech and occupational therapy. At Emerge - A Child's Place, each child can receive individual evaluation encompassing both occupational and speech therapy domains. Programs are then developed to address each child's individual challenges and to train and involve parents in each child's plan.



The Fun Place for Therapy

At Emerge, children find spacious rooms, large windows, colorful surroundings, and lots of toys and playful equipment. In general, Emerge is a place children like at first sight and look forward to visiting again. Important therapy has never been so much fun.

Please tell parents about Emerge – A Child's Place
Believing in a Child's Potential to Flourish