

NewsWorks

TherapyWorks Quarterly Newsletter



Working Wonders in Children's Lives

Summer 2010

Floortime™ Complements Autism Therapy Services

For nearly 30 years, TherapyWorks has helped children with Autism Spectrum Disorders through occupational and speech therapy. Seeing an increasing number of referrals of children diagnosed with ASD, TherapyWorks has once again moved to the forefront by offering DIR®/Floortime™.

Several of TherapyWorks' therapists have attended training courses on Floortime™ and utilize it in their therapy sessions. Rachel Ottley, OTR/L, occupational therapy clinic manager, is a Level II DIR® Certificate Candidate, one of only two in Oklahoma.

"Floortime™ intervention is tailored for each child's unique challenges and strengths. We look for where to join them in their play and stretch their abilities to stay calm and connected, interact and play with others," Rachel Ottley, OTR/L, said. "We provide a lot of coaching so families feel equipped to carry on the work of encouraging their children to be a part of this world."

According to the Interdisciplinary Council on Developmental and Learning Disorders (ICDL), "The objectives of the DIR®/Floortime™ Model are to build healthy foundations for social, emotional and intellectual capacities rather than focusing on skills and isolated behaviors."

The DIR®/Floortime™ Model looks at key developmental milestones, a child's ability to take in and make sense of sensory input, and their relationships with family and peers. Floortime™-based intervention helps children build relationships, develop social skills, problem solve and increase non-verbal and verbal communication development.

Floortime™ is often used in conjunction with speech and occupational therapy. In addition, nutrition therapy, provided by a pediatric registered dietitian, helps children and their families with diet issues specific to ASD. TherapyWorks is also actively seeking a psychologist to round out its team of professionals.

DIR® is a registered trademark and Floortime™ is a trademark of the Interdisciplinary Council on Developmental and Learning Disorders, Inc.



Rachel Ottley, OTR/L, shares a slice of pretend pizza with a 2-year-old boy with developmental and speech delays. Pretend play is an important part of speech development and relationship building in the DIR®/Floortime™ Model.

Upcoming Events

SibShops

Tulsa SibShops are activity "workshops" for siblings of children with special needs and are held on the first Saturday of the month. Sibshops mix information, discussion, activities and games. Call Lora Roberts at (918) 227-6202 for more information.

Moms & Dads Support Group

Co-sponsored by TARC and United Cerebral Palsy of Eastern Oklahoma, this support group meets the last Thursday of the month at the TARC office at 2516 East 71st Street, Suite A, in Tulsa. The group is open to families of children with all types of disabilities. On September 30, TherapyWorks' Rachel Ottley, OTR/L will be presenting on sensory processing disorder.

Working Wonders



“(Therapy) helps Shelby in her classroom activities and helps her feel confident in being around other kids and doing her best to help with school activities that everyone does. She is confident that she can do all things herself but if she needs help, she asks.

(Therapy) has also helped her learn to hold spoons and food on her own. She has learned to help herself more at mealtimes and helps when getting dressed.

She knows her letters and sounds, holds pencils better and tries her best. She likes therapy and tries to apply it everyday.”

- Holly, Shelby's mother

Shelby is 8-years-old and is receiving occupational, physical and speech therapy services at TherapyWorks.

Employee Emphasis

Kayla Schlicker, MS, OTR/L
Occupational Therapist

“We can do no great things, just small things with great love.”

Specialties

- Sensory Processing
- Animal-Assisted Therapy
- Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Handwriting

Certifications

- National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy
- Oklahoma Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision

Education

- M.S. Occupational Therapy
- University of Central Arkansas
- B.S. Health and Applied Sciences
- University of Central Arkansas

Beyond TherapyWorks

Kayla came to TherapyWorks from Arkansas. She enjoys being outside, sitting around a campfire and smelling like campfire the next morning, sunsets on the lake, family game nights, dancing, rescuing dogs, Jesus and life.



THERAPYWORKS

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