

Occupational Therapy Terms

ADAPTIVE RESPONSE refers to the ability to adjust the natural and social demands of the environment. Development of sensorimotor, communication, self-help, and socialization skills are all results of adaptive behavior in early childhood.

FINE MOTOR refers to the coordinated movement of small muscle groups (as in fingers, eyes, tongue, lips) required for discrete, spatially oriented tasks.

GROSS MOTOR refers to the coordinated movement of large muscle groups (as in arms and legs) required for activities such as walking, balance, kicking, etc.

MOTOR PLANNING refers to the ability of the brain to conceive of, organize, and carry out a sequence of unfamiliar motor actions

KINESTHETIC / PROPRIOCEPTIVE SYSTEM refers to the sensory data from muscles, joints, and tendons that the brain then uses to plan motor actions (*Note*: Speech is monitored through the auditory and proprioceptive feedback.)

SENSORY INTEGRATION or SENSORIMOTOR refers to the combined functioning of sensory and motor systems. Sensory perception helps lead the motor act which, in turn, provides additional feedback to the sensory system to further refine the motor act.

TACTILE SYSTEM refers to the sensory data received through touch/contact

VESTIBULAR SYSTEM refers to sensory data from the inner ear relating to balance and posture