

STEPS FOR KIDS OFFERS SENSORY THERAPIES, EDUCATION & PLAY SKILLS

— Sandy Conrad
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STEPS for Kids, located at 1555 Sycamore Road in Yorkville (630/552-9890) exists to support children's development through clinical intervention, educational programs and opportunities for purposeful play.

Founder and Director of the clinic, Debra Johnson, received her Occupational Therapy degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago and her Masters degree in Rehabilitation Services Administration from De Paul University. She brings extensive experience in neurological and pediatric rehab with a special interest in sensory processing disorder and related conditions. Other staff includes speech-language pathologist Amy McDowell and Office Manager Laura Kaczmarek.



Since 2010, STEPS for Kids has provided therapy services for children and their families in Kendall County and the surrounding areas of Northern Illinois which are individualized, family centered and outcome oriented, utilizing the best clinical practices to help each child to reach their potential. Their goal is to 1) provide the correct challenge for each child, 2) the training and education to support parents, and 3) to become a vital resource for the community, all of which serves to increase awareness and understanding of children with special needs.

Services offered include but are not limited to Occupational, Physical & Speech Therapy; Trademarked programs Therapeutic Listening, Interactive Metronome, The Alert Program, and Handwriting Without Tears; Infant Massage, Social Skills, Parent/Caregiver Education & Training and Community based Observation, Treatment & Consultation.



Intervention Services are designed to enhance functional skills for daily activities, to foster skill development, the mastery of tasks and self confidence in either one-on-one direct therapy or small groups based on individual needs of the child and their family.

Educational Services are meant to enhance academic skills such as handwriting and to remedy deficits in other skills. Community and Professional Education programs are conducted on a variety of topics related to Sensory Processing and Development. The staff offers both community based and individual advocacy as part of a comprehensive treatment program.



Purposeful Play is designed to promote child development, further parent/child interactions and promote understanding of the importance of play in a child's life. The clinic offers Structured Play Groups; activities may focus on gross and fine motor skills, social and language skills and parent/child interaction.

Occupational Therapy addresses the needs of children and families affected by Sensory

Processing Disorder and other developmental conditions. Symptoms of SPD may include over sensitive or under responsive reactions to sensory information, difficulty with gross or fine motor skills, delays in cognitive or perceptual development, behavioral concerns such as poor attention or flexibility, and social, emotional, academic or learning problems.

Treatment is also available for Autistic Spectrum Disorder, ADD/ADHD, Learning Disorders, Hypotonia, Giftedness, Dyspraxia and Motor Delays, Behavioral and other Developmental conditions.

Free screenings are offered to determine if a child needs a full assessment or further services if parents have concerns regarding their child's development, ability to adapt or function. Physician's Orders are required for Occupational, Physical and Speech Therapy; none is required for educational activities or play groups. Call the clinic with any questions you may have regarding services, referrals, fees, insurance or billing.