Does this child need an OT assessment?

The following list can be used to document a child’s difficulties, if you are unsure as to whether they may require occupational therapy input. If you answer yes to a number of the questions, it may be beneficial for the child to be assessed by an occupational therapist.

**Handwriting & Scissor Skills:**
- Is her writing messy or illegible?
- Does she tire easily during handwriting tasks?
- Is she slow to complete handwriting tasks?
- Does she complain of a sore hand or arm?
- Does she often break the lead in her pencil?
- Does she squish her letters together, making it difficult to read?
- Does she forget to leave spaces between words?
- Does she often wriggle in her chair?
- Does she watch her hand as she writes?
- When copying, does she need to look at the board for each word?
- Is she often stuck for ideas during creative writing tasks?
- Does she have difficulty recalling how to write letters of the alphabet?
- Does she often reverse her letters?
- Does she rest her head on the desk when she writes?
- Does she slouch or slump in her chair?
- When she uses scissors, is the final product messy?
- Does she find scissors hard to maneuver?

**Reading & Spelling:**
- Does she often skip words or lines when reading?
- Does she forget sight words even if she has read them on the previous page?
- Does she confuse letters such as b and d?
- Does she have difficulty matching letters with their correct sounds?
- Does she have difficulty with spelling words?
- Are sight words difficult for her?

**Following Instructions & Listening:**
- Does she need reminders in order to complete a task?
- Does she talk when she should be listening?
- Do you need to call her names numerous times before she will respond?
- Does she seem continually distracted?
- Is she distracted or has trouble functioning if the classroom is noisy?
**Organisation**

- Is her desk or area always messy?
- Does she forget to bring all the necessary items to school? (eg hat, swimmers, library books)
- Does she forget homework tasks or not have “time” to complete them?
- Does she require prompting throughout the day to stay on task?
- Is she a daydreamer or does she distract other children?
- Does she leave behind items such as her swimming bag, hat, homework?
- Does she become upset if routines are altered or changed?

**Self Care Skills**

- Does she ask for help to get dressed after swimming?
- Does she have difficulty or ask for assistance with tying shoelaces?
- Does she need reminders to use the bathroom throughout the day?
- Does she have difficulty/need assistance with opening drink bottles/lunchbox?
- Does she have difficulty/need assistance with opening food wrapper? (eg. snack bar wrapper, glad wrap, popper straws etc)
- Is she a messy eater?
- Does she dislike having messy hands? (eg. with glue or sand)
- Does she become easily upset by small injuries (ie. bruises her knee)

**Friendships & Play:**

- Does she have difficulty making or keeping friends?
- Does she become easily frustrated or have a tantrum when things don't go her way?
- Does she become bossy or the dominant character in a group?
- Does she have difficulty understanding how someone is feeling on their facial expressions alone?
- Does she respond negatively or avoid areas such as the sandpit or pool?
- Does she have difficulty initiating play with other children?
- Does she prefer to play in parallel with another child (ie. playing next to another child, but not joining their game)
- Does she have difficulties with pretend play skills?

**Gross Motor Skills:**

- Is she clumsy or does she easily trip over objects?
- Does she bump into other children when lining up for class?
- Does she tire easily during physical education or active tasks?
- Does she avoid spinning, jumping, running activities?
- Does she have difficulty with ball skills?
- Is she hesitant to use playground equipment?

Please note that although you may have answered yes to a number of these questions you need to consider if they are affecting the child's ability to complete tasks efficiently. Some children develop effective ways of coping with their difficulties. If you are unsure, please email me at tina@readysetgo.com.au or call on 3891 9979