

When Might a Child Benefit From Additional Support?

A Quick Guide for Early Childhood Educators 



➤ Areas You Might Notice ➤



Occupational Therapy

A child may benefit from OT support if you notice they:

- Have difficulty with fine motor tasks (using crayons, scissors, puzzles, buttons, or utensils).
- Need extra help with self-care tasks (dressing, washing hands, toileting, feeding).
- Seem sensitive to sounds, textures, lights, or movement, or seek these out frequently.
- Have a hard time with transitions, following routines, or managing big emotions.
- Have difficulty staying attentive, organized, or finishing activities.
- Struggle with play skills, sharing, taking turns, or engaging with peers.



Physical Therapy

A child may benefit from PT support if you notice they:

- Frequently fall, trip, or bump into objects or other children.
- Have difficulty with balance, climbing, jumping, or navigating playground equipment.
- Seem stiff, floppy, or have difficulty with coordination.
- Avoids physical activities or tires quickly compared to other children.
- Uses one side of their body much more than the other.
- Has difficulty keeping up with peers during active play.



Speech & Language Therapy

A child may benefit from SLP support if you notice they:

- Has difficulty understanding directions, questions, or classroom routines.
- Has limited words or uses very few words to express needs or ideas.
- Is hard to understand, even by familiar adults.
- Has difficulty putting words together or telling about events.
- Has difficulty with back-and-forth conversation or staying on topic.
- Relies on gestures or behavior instead of words to communicate.

➤ Consider the Big Picture ➤

A child may benefit from additional support when challenges are:



Persistent

Happening often and over time.



Impacting Participation

Making it harder for the child to take part in daily routines and activities.



Causing Frustration

Leading to stress, meltdowns, or avoiding activities.



Across Settings

Noticed in more than one setting or with multiple people.



Interfering With Everyday Life

Affecting learning, friendships, independence, or confidence.

Talking With Families About Your Observations

Approaching families with care and curiosity helps build trust and opens the door to partnership.



Start with strengths.

Share what the child does well and what you enjoy about them.



Share specific observations.

Use examples you've seen, not labels or diagnoses.



Invite their perspective.

Ask if they've noticed similar things at home and listen.



Focus on support, not blame.

Let families know you want to work together to help support their child.



A gentle way to start:

"I've noticed a few things in the classroom that I wanted to share with you. I care about your child and want to make sure we are supporting them in the best way possible together."

Not Sure? We're Here to Help.

These signs do not mean a child needs therapy- They simply mean extra support may help them feel more successful and confident.

We're happy to consult, answer questions, and guide you on next steps.

Thank you for being such an important part of each child's journey.



📍 1707 Gum St. San Mateo, CA 94402
📞 (650) 539-8113
✉ hello@nurturlykids.com
🌐 www.nurturlykids.com



Scan to learn more or connect with us.