



Newsletter

APRIL 2023

OUR MISSION

The mission of the University of Miami Linda Ray Intervention Center is to support and facilitate positive developmental outcomes with high-quality services, thereby improving young children's school readiness, and future student achievement.



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY MONTH

The month of April is National Occupational Therapy Month. So, what is a Pediatric Occupational Therapist/Therapy? Occupational Therapy helps children succeed in important areas of their lives such as school, play, and essential daily activities. This includes helping children learn the skills needed to brush their teeth, write their name, or play with friends. Occupational Therapists work with children to figure out where there are delays and limitations that affect their ability to participate in daily routines and activities more independently. Occupational Therapy focuses on many areas including fine motor skills, sensory processing, social development, and establishing self-care routines. When a child has these skills, they are able to grow into healthy, well-functioning adults. Children who have a harder time with these skills may need additional evaluation and intervention to help them meet important developmental milestones as expected. Pediatric occupational therapists work with children of all ages- from infants to teenagers. Treatment options will vary for each child. Remember, every child develops at their own pace! For specific questions about your child, be sure to consult with our on-site Occupational Therapist, Andrea Llano, MS, OTR/L.

ABOUT US

The UM-Linda Ray Intervention Center is a University-based Multidisciplinary Educational Services Center in partnership with Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS) and Florida's Early Steps program. We provide early intervention services, diagnostic evaluation, consultation, technical assistance, and pre-service and in-service training for families, teachers, school district personnel, and community support providers concerning children and youth with developmental delays or disabilities, complex medical, emotional, or behavioral problems.



RESOURCES & SERVICES

- Training
- Direct intervention and consultation services
- Developmental screenings and assessments that help determine each child's needs
- Behavioral support strategies for school and home
- Classroom observations
- Transition planning support and linkages with Head Start, MDCPS, and Pre-K services
- Alternative options for your child's educational needs

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY RELATED ACTIVITIES



Nature Bag Sensory Activity (Babies)

Materials

- Clear plastic bag (Ex. Ziploc)
- Any nature item found outdoors (ex. leaves, flowers, grass)
- Water

Instructions

1. Pour room-temperature water and nature items into a clear plastic bag.
2. Seal the closure tight, and allow your baby to squish, pat, and explore the items in the bag!
3. Have them do this while in tummy time. This could also be a motivating way to encourage pull-to-stand if you tape it to the wall and encourage them to reach for the bag.



Spring Scoop Fine Motor/Sensory Activity (Toddlers)

Materials

- Plastic eggs and/or cotton balls
- Storage bin, shoe box, or Tupperware
- Water

Instructions

1. Pour room-temperature tap water into a storage bin or shoe box and add plastic eggs or colored cotton balls.
2. Give your little one a spoon or a ladle and let that fun begin! Let them splash, mix, and scoop until all of the eggs are out of the water.
3. Play and repeat!
4. Materials can be swapped for available and safe household items.

*** Always Supervise Children During Play***

April 2023						
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- Teacher Workday
- Recess Day (Closed)
- Legal Holiday

UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 12th: National D. E. A. R. Day "Drop Everything and Read."
- April 19th: Health Fair and Parent Workshop: Raising Healthy Kids

Location

750 NW 15TH ST
MIAMI, FL 33136-1431

Primary Service Areas

Miami-Dade County
Broward County
Monroe County

Contact Us

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