

CLUBHOUSE

PAEDIATRIC & ADOLESCENT OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

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NAME: Tamsin Colley
DATE OF BIRTH: 10th September 2002
DATE OF ASSESSMENT: 26/11/05

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

Relevant Background Information:

Tamsin is now a 3 year 3 month old girl who had a low grade (JPA) cerebellar tumour removed over 18 months ago. She was seen for an initial assessment in May 2005 and for a follow up appointment in July 2005. Since her review in July she has commenced fortnightly occupational therapy intervention at Sydney Children's Hospital. Her mother requested a further review of her skills prior to a medical review with Dr Teo on 29/11/05.

Observations of Progress (30/7/05):

Notable observations made at this review assessment included the following:

- Walking short steps
- Increased spontaneous use of her right upper limb in play.
- Used right hand for operating scissors with developing control.
- Continued to indiscriminately select right or left hand to start and finish tasks.
- Demonstrated more precise control with left hand when manipulating pegs and small pellets.
- Slightly more precise pencil grip with left hand although demonstrated a digital grasping pattern with her right hand.
- Developing greater pencil control with drawing. Able to draw a picture of a person with head (eyes, nose, mouth) and arms and legs
- Appeared 'shaky' in her hands when completing fine motor tasks. (This was not as noticeable on the initial assessment).

Recommendations were made to formally review Tamsin's upper limb and fine motor skills at 3 years, specifically investigating hand preference, bilateral skills and pencil and scissors skills.

Outcomes of assessment (26/11/05):

Tamsin's fine motor skills were reassessed using the Peabody Developmental Motor Scales. Her fine motor skills were assessed to be in the mildly impaired range for her age. At her initial assessment (2 years 6 months) her skills were assessed to be low average. It must be noted that impairment identified at this assessment can be largely attributed to tasks being more motorically challenging for her age. Her 'shakiness' in her upper limb is also felt to significantly contribute to her quality of task performance. The following areas were examined as part of the re-assessment:

- **Hand skills:** As stated in the initial report it is likely that Tamsin would have assumed a right hand preference based on family history and parent report. However, she continues to demonstrate decreased strength and control in her right upper limb. At her review assessment in July '05 Tamsin

showed more spontaneous use of her right hand in play, although did use her left hand when the task required greater strength or control. On today's assessment she more frequently chose her left hand to commence tasks but did use her right hand spontaneously for bilateral activities eg. threading. For all pencil and scissor tasks she chose her left hand during the assessment. It will be important for Tamsin to develop more specialised tool use over the coming year, therefore hand preference is important. As outlined in the initial report, if she assumes a left hand preference it will be important to monitor Tamsin's overall upper limb skills so that she does not develop a learned non use of her right upper limb as tasks become more challenging.

- **Pencil grasp:** Tamsin's grasp of crayon's and large pencils remains immature for her age. At the time of the initial assessment (May '05) she showed a more developed grasp with the left hand (digital grasping pattern) and a fist grip of the crayon with her right hand. At the time of review (July '05) she was showing a digital grasping pattern with both her left and right hand. On today's testing Tamsin held the pencil with a fist grip with both her left and right hand. She also chose to use her left primarily for pencil tasks. It will be important to facilitate her pencil grasp in the coming months.
- **Pencil skills:** Tamsin attempted tasks expected for her age but found accurate completing of colouring and tracing tasks challenging due to reduced pencil control. She also appeared aware of her lack of accuracy with these tasks. Her mother reported that she is also showing increased frustration with her completion of these tasks at home.
- **Grasp and release patterns:** As with previous testing, Tamsin was able to manipulate blocks and small objects with both hands. She remains less accurate with right hand. She also needed to stabilise her forearm or hand on a surface to allow for more accurate release of small objects. She was asked to release small pellets into a container. She took 40 seconds to release 10 pellets with her left hand and 1 minute and 30 seconds with her right hand (age expectations are that 10 pellets should be released with preferred hand within 30 seconds). She placed 6 blocks on top of each other to make a tower with both her left and right (8 -10 expected for age) but was particularly 'shaky' with her right hand when completing this task.
- **Copying skills:** Tamsin's copying skills were age appropriate. She was able to copy vertical, horizontal and diagonal lines, a circle and a cross and made a good attempt at a square. Her forms were recognisable but lacked accuracy due to poor pencil control. Her copying of block designs was also age appropriate, which is reflective of her cognitive development.
- **Drawing skills:** As with previous testing, Tamsin was able to draw a picture of a person. She also included a body on this picture with arms and legs completed in the correct place. Her ability to complete this picture was considered age appropriate, although her accuracy with drawing was representative of reduced pencil control.
- **Scissor skills:** Tamsin chose to cut with her left hand on today's assessment. At the review (July '05) she did use her right hand for cutting. She was able to snip and cut a straight line but she was unable to complete other structured cutting tasks due to limited scissor control and paper manipulation.

Tamsin demonstrated concept development in relation to colours and counting. Her planning skills and approach to tasks was also a particular strength. It will be important to monitor her possible levels of frustration if she is unable to

complete a task accurately due to her motor difficulties but understands how the tasks should be completed from a cognitive perspective.

Summary/Recommendations:

Tamsin continues to show progress with her development but the quality of her task completion is affected by her right upper limb difficulties. On today's assessment her fine motor skills were assessed to be mildly impaired for her age. Her 'shakiness' in her right upper limb also impacted on her ability to accurately manipulate and control objects with her right hand.

The following is recommended:

1. Formal monitoring of Tamsin's developmental on a 6 monthly basis.
2. Continued facilitation of bilateral skills, pencil and scissors skills. Tamsin should be facilitated to hold the pencil/crayon with a digital grasping pattern as opposed to a gross fistled grasping pattern.
3. Identification of hand preference between 3 and 4 years. This will be important to allow for specialisation of tool use. A decision will need to be made regarding which hand to encourage for more specialised fine motor tasks. Based on observations at varying intervals over the last 6 months, Tamsin tends to choose her left hand when the task requires more strength and control. If she is encouraged to use her left hand for pencil and paper tasks, it will be important to encourage right hand use in bilateral tasks so that she minimises a learnt non use of her right upper limb.

I trust this report outlines Tamsin's fine motor skills to date. Please feel free to contact me to discuss any aspects of the assessment or report if necessary. I would be happy to review her progress on request.

Sharon Duff

Occupational Therapist

c.c. Occupational Therapy File