UAB Pediatric Neuromotor Clinic
Intensive Occupational Therapy
(an ACQUIREc Therapy Model)

This clinic was founded (1999) with initial funding from the Alabama Health Services Foundation to fill a critical gap in the availability of effective interventions and supports for children with a wide variety of neuromotor disorders.

Dr. Stephanie DeLuca and Dr. Karen Echols, former researchers at the UAB Civitan International Research Center and Sparks Clinics, led the way in developing this promising therapy. We are excited to continue offering this intensive occupational therapy based on the ACQUIREc Therapy research and clinical findings.

Who is eligible?

Any child with a neuromotor disability. Other requirements include, having no serious uncontrolled seizure disorders, and be medically stable at the time of treatment. We treat children aged 14 months to 18 years, with a variety of neuromotor disorders such as cerebral palsy, hemispherectomy, hydrocephaly, and traumatic brain injury (TBI).

What treatment options are available?

We offer various types of therapy to fit your child’s specific needs. To decide which protocol is best for your child, please contact us for consultation and pricing.

Traditional Upper Extremity Protocol (based upon the ACQUIREc Therapy Protocol): Casting of unaffected extremity. 6 hours of intense treatment per day, 5 days per week, over a 4 week period. Amount of unilateral versus bilateral work can vary on a case by case basis. Three week protocols are available for certain months. Please call for more information.

Condensed Upper Extremity Protocol: Casting of unaffected extremity. 3 hours of intense treatment per day, 5 days per week, over a 4 week period. According to the findings of a pilot study investigated by Stephanie DeLuca, PhD, in2010, the 3 hour dosage can be appropriate for some clients.

Intensive Treatment For Children with Lower Tolerance Levels: Therapy will take place 5 days per week, over a 4 week period. The intensity of therapy will vary depending on the child’s tolerance level. This therapy is geared towards children with a need for more basic skills (transitioning, sitting balance, etc) who may benefit from intensive therapy, possibly without the constraint. The treatment plan will be individualized by a team of therapists to meet the specific needs of the child.
What type of cast is used?
Each child will be fitted with a bivalve cast that is fabricated especially for him or her. The cast will be placed on the child’s functional upper extremity, to allow for concentrated therapy and movement of the weaker arm and hand. Therapists will remove the cast weekly to check for skin integrity, allow the child to take a bath without the cast, as well as allow for a few minutes of movement with the functional upper extremity. Family members are asked not to remove the cast.

What is the typical day of therapy?
This will vary upon the protocol you choose. During treatment each day, your child will engage in a variety of functional and play activities based on their treatment goals and developmental level with a team of highly trained therapists to focus on intensive therapy.

Where is the treatment administered?
Whenever possible, treatment will take place in the child’s natural environment. For the month, this may include the home, temporary residence, school, playgrounds, childcare center, or a relative’s home. Housing during the month of treatment is not included in the cost of services of The Pediatric Neuromotor Clinic; however, for out of town visitors, we can provide information regarding local accommodations.

Can family members participate in treatment?
Parents are encouraged to participate and learn about the treatment process so that you can continue to assist your child and promote the learning of new behaviors even after you leave The Pediatric Neuromotor Clinic.

For more information please contact Katera Abrams, MS, OTR/L at 205.975.0466 or ksl@uab.edu.