

Occupational therapy aids kids with autism, sensory issues

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(HealthDay)—Occupational therapy focused on sensory integration strategies helps children with autism spectrum disorder and sensory issues improve their ability to perform everyday tasks, according to a study published online Nov. 10 in the *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*.

Roseann C. Schaaf, Ph.D., O.T.R./L., from Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, and colleagues randomized children with autism (aged 4 to 8 years) to either a manualized intervention (30 sessions of the [occupational therapy](#); 17 patients) or usual care (control group; 15 patients).

The researchers found that the children in the intervention group scored significantly higher ($P = 0.003$) on the primary outcome of Goal Attainment Scales. Additionally, the intervention group scored significantly better on measures of caregiver assistance in self-care ($P = 0.008$) and socialization ($P = 0.04$), compared to the control group.

"The study shows high rigor in its measurement of treatment fidelity and use of a manualized protocol, and provides support for the use of this intervention for children with autism," the authors write.

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