



Growing Young Minds

Comprehensive Learning Support Services for your School

Growing Young Minds is a team of learning support professionals that offers therapeutic services to schools in Midrand and surrounds. Our Speech Therapist, Occupational Therapist and Remedial Teacher are available to provide expert intervention services to those learners who require this. Offering our services on your premises is often a real value-add for parents, who are seldom available to take their children to therapy sessions or lessons in the afternoon hours.



Speech Therapy

Occupational Therapy

Remedial Therapy

Our contracted schools are able to:

- Introduce our team to parents at parent evenings/mornings
- Add the Growing Young Minds logo to school marketing materials.
- Book complimentary teacher trainings for staff and talks for parents

To find out more visit www.growingyoungminds.co.za or phone us on 079-340-6510.



SERVICES

Teacher Training: Growing Young Minds provides in-house training to your teachers on subjects such as when to refer learners to learning support professionals, how to improve handwriting skills, and how to promote language development in the classroom.

Parent Workshops: Growing Young Minds provides practical and relevant workshops to parents on topics such as how to manage anxiety in their children, how to provide supportive homework assistance, and how to manage learning difficulties.

Screenings: In the event that you're concerned about the progress of any of your learners, Growing Young Minds is able to screen them for speech, language or auditory processing difficulties; fine/gross motor delays; visual-perceptual difficulties; concentration issues; sensory processing disorder or visual difficulties.

Assessments: Growing Young Minds provides school readiness assessments, academic assessments (maths, English and phonological skills), speech and language assessments as well as fine and gross motor, visual-perceptual and sensory processing assessments.

Therapy: Growing Young Minds is able to provide on-site intervention for speech, language and auditory processing difficulties, as well as for gaps in literacy, mathematics and phonological development. Their occupational therapist is able to provide therapy for sensory integration difficulties at her fully-equipped room in Crowthorne, Midrand.

Remedial Therapy

Remedial Therapists offer personalised assistance to learners who are experiencing difficulties with schoolwork for any number of reasons. In one-on-one lessons, a remedial therapist might address specific learning difficulties, or fill in gaps in a learner's knowledge. Learners are provided with skills and strategies to overcome the difficulties they're experiencing.

Remedial therapists work on:

- Reading
- Phonics and Spelling
- Writing
- Maths
- Thinking skills
- Study skills

Which Learners Could Benefit:

Any child facing scholastic difficulties can potentially benefit from Remedial Therapy. These difficulties may be the result of external factors such as absenteeism, or internal factors such as poor attention or memory skills, auditory processing difficulties, delays in their ability to understand or use language, spatial perceptual difficulties or gaps in their thinking skills.

Additional Services

Remedial teachers also offer

- School readiness assessments and
- Academic assessments

Importance and Benefits:

Remedial Teaching can build learners' confidence in their own abilities, restore their interest in academic learning, and enhance their academic performance.

Remedial teaching can provide a beacon of hope for children navigating learning challenges. In a supportive environment that celebrates individual strengths and addresses unique needs, remedial teaching can set a learner on a fulfilling journey of learning and growth.

Speech Therapy

Speech Therapists work on a range of skills related to speech, language, listening and communication. These include:

Speech

Speech therapists work with learners who have speech difficulties. They also work with 'minimal speakers' – learners who have a lot that they want to say, but find it difficult to put their thoughts into spoken words, as well as 'unreliable speakers' – learners who might say things that they don't intend to say, e.g. answering a question that they know the answer to incorrectly.

Auditory Processing Skills

What teachers refer to as 'phonics' is included in a category of skills that speech therapists refer to as 'auditory processing skills'. Auditory processing includes skills such as the ability to remember what you hear; to hear the difference between similar sounding words; to combine sounds to make words and to break a word up into sounds. These skills are essential to success in early literacy.

Ability to Understand Language

Speech Therapists work with children who are having difficulty understanding language – whether it's words, word structures, or complex sentences.

Ability to Use Language

We assist children who are having difficulty expressing themselves using language. This may be due to a limited vocabulary, difficulty recalling words, grammatical errors, poorly constructed sentences, or difficulty conveying their thoughts in ways that easily make sense to others.

Thinking Skills

We often work on verbal reasoning and on verbal problem-solving skills. The ability to answer “why?”, “how?” and “what if...?” questions are good examples.

Social Communication Skills

We also work on children's ability to communicate with other children, to resolve conflict verbally, and to speak in ways that are situation-appropriate (e.g. using polite forms when talking to teachers).

Occupational Therapy

Occupational Therapy aims to improve a child's ability to cope with the current demands and expectations placed on them.

Sensory Integration

Sensory Integration is the process by which information noted by our senses is organized and meaning is attached to what is being experienced. In order for this process to occur smoothly, the brain must sift through all the information it receives from the various senses and select what to focus on and what to ignore. The body has eight senses to process: smell, touch, proprioception (sensing where our joints are), sight, vestibular input (recognising movement or acceleration of the head), sound, interoception (knowing when you're hungry, thirsty or need the bathroom) and taste.

Sensory Processing Disorder

Sensory Processing Disorder is when the child is not able to make sense of all the sensory information being received and therefore struggles to respond or react to this sensory information in an appropriate manner.

Occupational Therapists work on these areas of development:

- **Sensory Regulation:** This refers to the ability to perceive, interpret and respond appropriately to sensory information. Difficulty in this domain can impact on a learner's ability to function effectively in a social or learning environment.
- **Gross Motor Ability and Control:** Here the occupational therapist evaluates the child's ability to smoothly coordinate, time and plan a variety of familiar and unfamiliar gross motor activities. This would include the motor coordination required for sport. We also work on core stability, endurance and strength.
- **Fine Motor Control:** Aspects such as pencil grip and control as well as neatness and speed of cutting, writing, colouring, typing, finishing work/ assignments/ tests on time. Tool (e.g. pencil) manipulation and the coordinated use of both hands may also be addressed.
- **Perception:** Perceptual abilities refers to being able to visually manipulate information such as building puzzles, understanding that a circle and sphere are both round. These skills form part of the foundation for learning to read and write. We also work on writing legibility and letter reversals.
- **Emotional Regulation:** This applies to various characteristics such as confidence/anxiety as well as the ability to manage frustration, disappointment or social conflict.



Meet our team:



Carrie Lichtenstein
Speech Therapist



Jaime Atkinson
Remedial Teacher

Next Steps

Would you like to offer our services at your school? Can you think of learners who might benefit from these? If so, please request our contract or ask to meet with our team. We would be happy to assist you.

visit www.growingyoungminds.co.za or phone 079-340-6510