

Complex Fine Motor Challenges-

How to Assess and Intervene Effectively

Jeryl Benson, OTR/L, EdD, FAOTA

Faculty

Dr. Benson has over 30 years working in pediatrics with extensive experience in school-based practice and as an educational consultant for schools and families. She is certified to administer the Sensory Integration and Praxis Test, is a certified infant massage instructor and is trained in Neurodevelopmental Treatment for children with cerebral palsy. As a full Professor at Duquesne University, she teaches both undergraduate and graduate coursework in the areas of lifespan occupational performance, neurological and sensorimotor function, occupation-based theory, and advanced practice. Her research interests include school-based practice, sensory processing and occupation. Her goal is to make an impact by researching best practices in an educational setting ensuring that children have the tools to fully participate in their educational, social, and community environments. Dr. Benson is currently the Editor of AOTA Children & Youth SIS Quarterly Practice Connections.

Disclosures: Financial: Dr. Benson receives a speaking fee from Education Resources for this course. Non-Financial: Dr. Benson has no relevant non-financial relationships to disclose.

About this Live Webinar

Therapists looking to both clarify and broaden their lens for fine motor development and participation will benefit from this holistic, clinical reasoning course. Skillfully and intentionally analyze and apply multiple perspectives that drive your approach to supporting fine motor development. From evaluation to intervention, integrate the lenses of emotional regulation, sensory regulation, motor development, cognition and environmental influences to target the skills and occupation-based outcomes children need in their daily lives. This course goes deeper than offering intervention activities to improve dexterity and coordination to a thorough understanding of why and how to interpret assessment data and design multidimensional interventions that most efficiently meet children's fine motor needs. When fine motor challenges are not improving as expected, broaden your lens so you can zoom in on the interventions and strategies that will work to meet the child's goals.

Objectives

- Distinguish between typical and impaired, delayed or different fine motor development in young children.
- Relate fine motor performance and participation with a variety of factors in addition to motor development.
- Select assessment procedures to obtain relevant data on fine motor functioning
- Recognize multiple perspectives in developing a holistic interpretation of assessment data on fine motor function.
- Synthesize assessment findings with progress monitoring in an intervention plan that addresses fine motor participation.
- Choose interventions that account for sensory processing, emotional regulation and/or cognitive impacts on fine motor participation.
- Determine intervention strategies to address environmental factors impacting fine motor participation.

Audience

This course is appropriate for OTs, OTAs, PTs, PTAs and Educators working with Pediatric, Birth to 3, Early Intervention and School (ages 3-21) populations in Home Care, Outpatient, Rehab or School-Based settings.

Schedule—Day 1 5:40 pm - 9:00 pm EST (US)

- 5:40-6:00 Webinar Registration/Zoom Course Opens
- 6:00-7:00 Fine Motor Development- What's expected from infancy through school age?
- Anatomical changes & Functional progression
 - Impact of childhood experiences on hand development
 - Video analysis of typical development
- 7:00-9:00 Fine Motor Function and Participation from multiple perspectives. Using multiple lenses to understand development that is unexpected, delayed, or different.
- Motor Development • Sensory Processing • Social/Emotional Regulation • Cognitive Function • Environmental Influences

Schedule – Day 2 5:40 pm - 9:00 pm EST (US)

- 5:40-6:00 Webinar Registration/Zoom Course Opens
- 6:00-6:30 What's missing from my Assessment of Fine Motor Function?
- A time and place for formal, standardized assessments (motor and non-motor)
 - Functional assessment of hand and fine motor function- getting the most out of our clinical observations
- 6:30-7:00 Strengths-based Assessment
- Building on client strengths, motivations and priorities
 - Challenges in the context of meaningful participation
 - Effectively interpreting assessment data to develop a hypothesis
- 7:00-7:45 Video Case Analysis: Clinical Observations of Fine Motor Function
- Autism Case: Using clinical observation to develop present levels of function and areas of need
 - CP Case: Using clinical observation to develop present levels of function and areas of need
- Using clinical observation to develop present levels of function and areas of need
- 7:45-9:00 Case Application-Assessment
- Using an occupational/developmental profile template, create an assessment plan that incorporates multiple data sources to account for various perspectives about FM strengths and challenges
 - Develop a hypotheses to guide the intervention plan

Schedule – Day 3 5:40 pm - 6:00 pm EST (US)

- 5:40-6:00 Webinar Registration/Zoom Course Opens
- 6:00-7:00 The steps to an evidence-based intervention session
- Activities to support occupation/prep; purposeful activity/exercises; occupation/functional outcome
 - Writing goals and progress monitoring
 - Identifying supports/barriers to progress
- 7:00-8:00 Intervention Planning, Monitoring, and Revising: Evidence-based intervention strategies from multiple perspectives—How to prioritize and integrate multiple perspectives to achieve Fine Motor outcomes.

7:00-8:00

Intervention Planning, Monitoring, and Revising: Evidence-based intervention strategies from multiple perspectives—How to prioritize and integrate multiple perspectives to achieve Fine Motor outcomes. The lens of motor development: Motor considerations, interventions, and evidence. **Case #1: Motor Intervention Plan**

- Using a guided process and case specific assessment findings, including strengths, priorities, motivations and needs, participants will establish goals and determine intervention strategies and approaches that focus on one lens with consideration of multiple lenses.

8:00-9:00

Sensory Processing Lens: Sensory considerations, interventions, and evidence. **Case #2: Sensory Intervention Plan**

- Using a guided process and case specific assessment findings, including strengths, priorities, motivations and needs, participants will establish goals and determine intervention strategies and approaches that focus on one lens with consideration of multiple lenses.

Addressing fine motor via social and emotional regulation: Social/Emotional considerations, interventions, and evidence.

Schedule – Day 4 5:40 pm - 6:00 pm EST (US)*

5:40-6:00

Webinar Registration/Zoom Course Opens

6:00-7:00

Intervention Planning, Monitoring, and Revising: Evidence based Intervention strategies from multiple perspectives—How to prioritize and integrate multiple perspectives to achieve Fine Motor outcomes. **Case #3: Social/Emotional Intervention Plan**

Using a guided process and case specific assessment findings, including strengths, priorities, motivations and needs, participants will establish goals and determine intervention strategies and approaches that focus on one lens with consideration of multiple lenses.

7:00-8:00

Leveraging cognitive function: Cognitive considerations, interventions, and evidence. **Case #4: Cognition Intervention Plan**

Using a guided process and case specific assessment findings, including strengths, priorities, motivations and needs, participants will establish goals and determine intervention strategies and approaches that focus on one lens with consideration of multiple lenses.

Considering environmental influences: Environmental considerations, interventions, and evidence.

8:00-8:45

Case #5: Environment Intervention Plan

Using a guided process and case specific assessment findings, including strengths, priorities, motivations and needs, participants will establish goals and determine intervention strategies and approaches that focus on one lens with consideration of multiple lenses.

8:45-9:00

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Approved provider of the FL Board of Occupational Therapy-CE Broker – 14 hrs. This course meets the approval of the TX Board of OT Examiners.

Application has been made to the FL Physical Therapy Association for 14 continuing education contact hours.

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12 hours of this course qualify towards the discipline-specific hours for the 20-hour requirement for NDTA re-certification. They do NOT qualify towards the 8-hour NDTA Instructor requirement for re-certification.

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WEBINAR DATES AND TIMES

October 21, 23, 28 and 30, 2025

5:40 pm EST • 4:40 pm CST • 3:40 pm MST • 2:40 pm PST (US)

Registration is for both sessions. Log-in instructions and course materials will be emailed/added to your ERI account 5-7 days prior to the webinar.



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WEBINAR: Complex Fine Motor Challenges-How to Assess and Intervene Effectively/Jeryl Benson

October 21, 23, 28 and 30, 2025

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