Children, adolescents, and adults with a broad range of physical, developmental, and psychological conditions can be helped by occupational therapy. Our individualized treatment programs are designed to build confidence and offer support strategies for caregivers.

Signals that may indicate a need for occupational therapy include:

- Delays in motor or communication skills and/or academic achievement
- Over or under responsiveness to sensory experiences such as touch, movement, sight, or sound
- Physical clumsiness
- Distractability and/or impulsiveness
- Social and/or emotional issues
- Difficulty interacting with others
- Repetitive or unusually intense behaviors
- Resistance to change in daily routines
- Poor self-concept

Who May Need Help?

“...a day does not go by when we watch our son engage in some activity that, prior to your working with him, would prove unthinkable.”

The CES Occupational Therapy Center is located near downtown Northampton in the Collaborative’s HEC Academy building on Route 5, approximately one mile west of I-91, Exit 18. The OT Center entrance is at the rear of the building; parking is available.

The Collaborative for Educational Services is a nonprofit educational service agency serving learners from birth through adulthood. The Collaborative has been providing high quality, innovative programming to meet the educational needs of all learners since 1974.
Since opening in 2001, the Center has specialized in the evaluation and treatment of children and adults with motor delays and sensory processing issues.

Sensory integration is described as the organization of the senses and how they work together to guide the way that we perceive and respond to our environment. Basic sensory input such as touch, sound, movement, and body position help us to plan and execute new actions based on past experiences and the sensations that accompany them. For most of us, this process develops naturally through our usual activities, but when the system does not develop as efficiently as it should, the result may be difficulties in learning, motor development, social awareness, or behavior.

With a staff that is SIPT (Sensory Integration and Praxis Test) certified and trained in sensory integration theory and treatment, the Center has become a leader in recognizing and meeting the special needs of those with autism disorders and other developmental disabilities.

We specialize in:

• Evaluation and treatment of sensory processing issues
• Use of current programs for self-regulation
• Therapeutic Listening
• Fine motor and handwriting skill development

“Various forms and assessments ask our hopes or goals for our child. My heartfelt answer is ‘for him to be comfortable in his own skin.’ Before working with you, I meant this metaphorically. You’ve taught him—and me—this can be literally true. For that, I am deeply grateful.”

Our staff of licensed occupational therapists has extensive experience evaluating and treating children and adults with various needs, from typical youngsters with mild delays to those with specific disabilities such as autism spectrum disorders, cerebral palsy, ADHD, Down Syndrome, and other issues.

Therapy is an interactive process that can address:

• **Gross Motor Development**
 Coordination, balance, increased physical confidence and safety awareness
• **Fine Motor Development**
Hand skills, dexterity, and eye-hand coordination
• **Sensory Processing**
Integrated responses to information perceived through touch, sound, and other senses
• **Play, Social and Academic Skills**
Engaging with people and the environment, organization, flexibility, and self-regulation
• **Daily Living Skills**
Self-help skills for everyday tasks, appropriate social and communication behaviors