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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **HELPING CHILDREN DEVELOP THE SKILLS FOR THE JOB OF LIVING**

**Rockville, MD, March 12, 2004** – The Treatment and Learning Centers, a non-profit organization, which helps children and adults with a wide range of disabilities, today announced that they would be hosting events throughout the month of April in observation of National Occupational Therapy Month. The Occupational Therapy Department at TLC provides evaluation and therapy for children of all ages with sensory integration, sensory modulation, fine motor and gross motor delays in individual and group sessions.

Occupational therapy is a health profession that helps individuals whose lives have been affected by various disabilities or other problems that impact their ability to be independent in their occupations. Pediatric occupational therapists help children pursue the “occupations” of learning, playing, and growing. A leading reason for referring a child to occupational therapy is for help in mastering handwriting, a skill necessary for the “job” of student. But occupational therapy also helps children with conditions such as autism, cerebral palsy, Down’s syndrome, mental retardation, ADHD – attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and many other sensory processing and developmental conditions.

TLC will kick off a month long celebration with a free parent workshop on Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, “Sensory Integration 101” from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. An additional workshop will be offered on Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, “Making Sense of Sensory Integration”. This workshop is a segment of TLC’s Professional Workshop Series and will be held from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Cost for this workshop is \$25.00 per person. Both will be presented by Mary Way O.T.D, OTR/L, Director of Occupational/Physical Therapy at TLC. Free screenings for children ages 3-8 will be offered on April 26<sup>th</sup> by appointment only. Reservations are required for these events due to limited appointments and seating. For more information, please call 301-424-5200 ext. 128.

The Occupational Therapy Department at TLC will also offer two summer programs, Pencil Pals: Handwriting Program and Friends In Motion: Sensory Integration Camp for children ages 5-10 years. Pencil Pals is for children who have poor handwriting skills that are impacting their written work. This program is conducted as a small group experience to enhance handwriting skills combining a sensory integrative approach with fine motor skills and a specific handwriting program. Friends In Motion is for children who are identified with motor-planning problems combined with sensory processing difficulties, such as sensory seeking or avoiding behaviors. This program is structured by a theme-based sensorimotor experience in a small group setting. Both summer programs are led by a licensed occupational therapist. For additional information about either program, please call 301-424-5200, ext. 128.

**About TLC**

The Treatment and Learning Centers, located in Rockville, Maryland, enables children and adults to develop their full potential, to communicate effectively with others, and to achieve educational success. TLC provides services that strengthen their abilities and respond to their changing needs. With over 50 years of service to the community, TLC is committed to integrity and excellence in our care and will strive to assist all, regardless of their ability to pay. For more information call 301-424-5200 or visit [www.ttlc.org](http://www.ttlc.org).

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