

This letter was submitted to The New York Times on February 26.

To the Editor:

Re "Watch How You Hold That Crayon" (article, Feb. 24):

Thank you for bringing attention to occupational therapy in Peg Tyre's recent article. In this cyber era, we often forget about the important communicative role of the handwritten word. But let me clarify that pediatric occupational therapy is about more than "holding a crayon."

Pediatric occupational therapy practitioners work in schools, daycare programs, early intervention programs and even newborn intensive care units in hospitals. Their services are paid for by many parents but also available through health insurance, schools, Medicaid and Part B of the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Occupational therapy helps children and their families "live life to its fullest," our trademark, by promoting student access, participation and progress in all school routines such as participation in classroom activities, playground, and lunchroom skills. Handwriting is one area of concern, but captures only a small portion of our scope of practice.

Yes, when you are three years old it may be just holding a crayon, but later in life it may be holding the pen that signs the law or treaty or driving a car safely. In other words, it is just the beginning.

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