



Therapy lifeline

The life changing and transformational powers of occupational therapy will continue to reap rewards at Toronto's Centennial Infant and Child Centre, thanks in part to the Halcrow Foundation.

Each year the Centennial charity supports over 500 children with a wide range of abilities and disabilities including Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, autism, congenital anomalies, brain damage and many other special needs.

The centre provides a wealth of services including an early intervention programme, pre-school and kindergarten facilities as well as child care consultations and parent/infant groups.

Halcrow Yolles' Toronto-based engineer Jennifer Watson sponsored the request for £20,000, which pays for the services of an occupational

therapist for three days a week, having witnessed first hand the positive impact they have on the lives of the children involved.

Nearly all the children receiving services from Centennial have a disability that requires some sort of occupational therapy. Public funding of these highly specialised treatments is extremely limited and most services have waiting lists of six months to one year.

With two part-time occupational therapists, the children that benefit from their skills are far better equipped to move into integrated school classrooms, play with their peers, interact with their family and teachers, and be as independent as possible.

