



South Washington County Schools

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Grey Cloud Guidelines for Fidgets:

At Grey Cloud we have a number of students we support with fidgets or tools that are designed to help the students better attend and learn based on their individual needs. Many times these students have specific medical diagnoses and/or have qualified for special education services. We train these students on when to use their fidgets and how to avoid making them distracting to others as outlined in the "Distractor Vs. Fidget" information taken from Michelle Garcia Winner's research below:

"Many people think that giving a student a fidget can help him or her to attend better during instruction. For some students, this is true. For others however, fidgets become a distraction both to themselves and students around them.

Students are taught about the difference between a distracter and a fidget. A distracter is something that takes your attention away from what you are supposed to be doing. A fidget is an object that you can play with to help you maintain your focus.

The student should not be looking at the fidget and no one else should be able to see it.

If the student has the fidget on the table or in their lap where others can see it, or are focusing on the fidget rather than the instruction or task then it is a distracter and the adult will need to take it."

While we support the use of these fidgets with targeted training, we are finding that a number of students are coming to school with fidgets that we have not provided and are not part of their plan. Other students are seeing them and purchasing them without the presented need, plan or training. The prevalence and use of these items has required us to create school guidelines to distinguish between fidgets and toys. *(Please note all tools and fidgets that are specified in a student's IEP, 504 Plan or are being used as an intervention designed by a school/family collaboration have already met these guidelines.)*

Grey Cloud Fidget Guidelines:

- All students who do not have a fidget specified on an IEP, 504 Plan and/or intervention plan, need to provide their homeroom teacher with a written permission form each school year signed by the student's parent or guardian prior to using the fidget at school. [Permission Form](#)
- The fidget is only to be used in the classroom setting. It is not to be taken to specialist classes, lunch, recess or used in the hallway.
- The fidget needs to be out of sight and quiet as to not to distract the student or others.
- Failure to meet these guidelines may result in the fidget being taken away.

Thank you for your assistance as we continue to respond to students' needs and maintain effective learning environments!