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The application of cognitive intervention principles among pediatric populations

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Can cognitive intervention principles be applied to young children? If so, how and at what age? This poster presentation will address these important clinical questions and stimulate discussion around an emerging area of practice. Many children referred to occupational therapy present difficulties with various cognitive functions such as children with learning disabilities, developmental delay, or Sensory Modulation Disorder. Occupational therapy has a long history of cognitive intervention however limited literature is available discussing the application of cognitive intervention principles with children, leaving many therapists to rely on intuitive clinical reasoning alone to guide their practice. Research has suggested that higher mental functions, although fully matured at adolescence, begin to develop in early childhood. Application of this premise can be seen in the recently documented use of cognitive intervention principles among a sub-group of clients (such as children with Developmental Coordination Disorder). Considering the wide variety of pediatric diagnoses seen by occupational therapists, it is vital to expand our knowledge and application of cognitive intervention with other pediatric clients. Therefore, this presentation will address and explore the application of cognitive intervention methods among children experiencing cognitive difficulties.