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The Influence of the Family Context in the Symbolic Play of Children with Cerebral Palsy

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Introduction: despite the existent lesion in Cerebral Palsy (CP) be fixed, some characteristics, after stimulation, can be modified according to the central nervous system maturation. In this way, the knowledge about family environment resources is important to facilitate play, which is necessary to the development of many abilities in the early childhood.

Objective: to analyze the influence of family context in the performance of the symbolic play of children with CP, aged from 3 to 6 years, who live in Ribeirão Preto, Brazil.

Methods: with 20 children who have CP, the Child-Initiated Pretend Play Assessment - ChIPPA, translated and culturally adapted for use in the Brazilian population (Queiroz and Pfeifer, 2008) was applied. With those responsible for the children was administered the Home Environment Resources Scale - HERS (Marturano, 2006).

Results: the children who had the lower scores in ChIPPA, or rather, didn't present elaboration of the symbolic play, in general don't go to regular or special school and also had significantly lower scores in HERS, in the following items: strolls to different places; activities performed with the child's parents; kinds of toys that the child has; existing books, newspapers and magazines at home; existing daily routine; and moments of family gatherings.

Conclusion: the parents and school stimulation, the amount of resources to play and the living together with peers, may influence the development of playing in children with CP sequelae.

Contributing to the practice: this study indicates the importance of the occupational therapist to know the more suitable stimulus to develop the playing of children with CP, to be able to orient the caretakers to offer it to the children.

Reference List:

- 1) QUEIROZ, M. A.; PFEIFER, L. I. (2008) Cross-cultural adaptation of The Child-Initiated Pretend Play Assessment (ChIPPA). Final Term Paper, University of São Paulo, Ribeirão Preto.
- 2) MARTURANO, E. M. (2006) The Home Environment Resources Scale. *Psicol. Refl. e Crít.*, 19(3), 498-506.