

0625

Mr. P. Goes "Snoezelen" or Rediscovering Volition: Applying the Model of Human Occupation (MOHO) to an Old-old Multiply-Disabled Client

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Introduction: When sensory, motor, and cognitive deficits limit a person's access to and control of the environment, volition can diminish. A client loses the sense of capacity and efficacy and might face misunderstanding or even neglect. Occupational therapists are advocates in identifying meaningful occupation and specialists in training clients to compensate deficits and regain performance skills. Mr. P regained volition, the ability to act and interact in the treatment environment of the Snoezelen room. This was documented with the Volitional Questionnaire, a tool of the MOHO.

Objectives: to provide evidence-based information on the application of the assessment tool "Volitional Questionnaire" of the MOHO to an old-old multiply-disabled client.

Description/Report: The occupational therapist evaluated Mr. P with the volitional questionnaire at the beginning of the project in the dining room, a place of daily living activities. He started interventions in a "Snoezelen" room, a place of controlled multisensory stimulation, intense interaction and client driven activity. Being rated as overall passive, his abilities to act and interact with the therapist, the assistant and his daughter during the course of three months with weekly interventions increased significantly. This was documented with the volitional questionnaire in the Snoezelen environment with the goal to carry the gains over into the context of activities of daily living.

Conclusion: For Mr. P, the highly controlled environment of Snoezelen provided a unique volitional opportunity. The volitional questionnaires enabled the therapist to identify and document the efficiency of treatment in this environment.

Contribution to practice: this clinical case adds to evidence-based OT practice. By identifying and respecting client's volition, therapists can choose practices that empower multiply-disabled clients like Mr. P to regain participation in occupational life.

References:

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