

**Play at hospitals: parents' and professionals' point of view**

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**INTRODUCTION:** The environment can directly influence patients' recovery when they are at a hospital. Thus, interventions at hospitals must aim to promote proper conditions targeting rehabilitation from the effects of bad experiences on children's development. **OBJECTIVE:** To investigate and analyze how well parents and professionals know about having children at the hospital, how important it is to play at the hospital as well as to describe the difficulties of having a toy room there. **MATERIAL AND METHODS:** It was a qualitative and quantitative approach. Ten professionals of service assistance and management from the pediatrics ward and 10 companions of children, who had been at the hospital for more than 7 days, were interviewed. For data collection there were two different guides for the interviews: one guide for the companions' interviews and the other for the professionals'. Data was collected by means of individual interviews which were recorded. EpiInfo was used to calculate frequencies, mean and median figures. Qualitative data analysis was based on concerting themes that stem from the subjects' discourse with the theoretical reference and analyzing frequencies and mean. The research was approved by the Ethics Committees. **RESULTS:** All participants stated that they notice how bad the hospital environment can be for child development and they mention playful activities, especially playing, as a way to overcome it because they soften children's suffering. Parents/companions report the need of a specific room for playing where the child could forget his/her health condition for a while. Professionals say that there is no toy room in hospitals because of the lack of their own initiative and knowledge and rooms available. **CONCLUSION:** It is clear that parents and companions agree on the benefits of having playful activities for children at the hospital; however, it does not happen due to their own fault. **Contribution to OT:** In Occupational Therapy, playing is the child's main activity and when he/she is at the hospital its occupational role is hindered. A toy room is a therapeutic area where a child's development can continue and it helps the child overcome that specific moment of his/her life.