

**The social processes of constitution of abilities**

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The objective of this paper is to present to the Occupational Therapy community some reflections and implications of my doctorate research, in which social processes of the constitution of abilities were discussed. Some of the theoretical references used to understand the sociogenesis of abilities include the concepts of *Habitus*, the structure of heritages (Bourdieu, 1998), modalities of socialization (Lahire, 2002) and social configuration (Elias, 1994). There are four case studies of teenagers considered talented in art/music - acoustic guitar and piano - and sports - soccer and horseback riding. The resources for data collection were semi-directive interviews with each subject, their family (including grandparents), teachers and friends; the observation of their ethnographic profile, following for six months each subject in their field of ability and instances of socialization; and also the analysis of records and documents related to their activity. These studies lead to the conclusion that abilities are constituted and emerge from processes of socialization and mediation. Abilities should also be understood as historical constructions, like cultural and social inheritances, like ways of action that we appropriate. These studies also point some social factors that influence and participate in the constitution of abilities and that are evidence of its complex social nature, such as: social conditions of belonging, family models and their socializing purposes, mobilizing actions of families, intersubjective aspects of relationships, and also family histories and memories. This way, this paper intends to present the implications of my research, demonstrate the importance of the concept of ability to the Occupational Therapy science and the reasons why this concept must be considered one of the fundamentals of our practice.