

Occupational therapy with families from different cultural background living in Switzerland: Experiences with the Pediatric Evaluation Disability Inventory (PEDI)

Christina Schulze, Julie Page

nstitute of Occupational Therapy, School of Health Professions, ZHAW University of Applied Sciences, Winterthur, Switzerland

Introduction:

In the end of 2007, 21.1% of the Swiss population are migrants, tendency rising. Activities of daily living (ADL) are among the first achievements in childhood, and provide a sense of mastery, social approval and independence for children with and without disabilities. ADLs are one of the key aspects addressed in occupational therapy and are relevant for all cultural groups living in Switzerland. This applies especially for children since they have to master special skills in order to attend regular school class.

The Pediatric Evaluation of Disability Inventory (PEDI) is an instrument for evaluating functional performance. The PEDI is one of the most commonly used assessments for children with disabilities.

Objective

The aim of this presentation is to illustrate the German version of the PEDI (PEDI-G) as a useful tool in the rehabilitation of children from a different cultural background living in Switzerland.

Description

Theoretical reflections based on practical experiences from the main author working with families with different cultural backgrounds are presented. Practical clinical cases show how the PEDI-G is used to guide the treatment process with families from other cultural backgrounds living in Switzerland.

Results

The use of the PEDI-G helps to get the families more involved in the treatment process and to promote the collaboration between families.

Conclusion:

The more activity oriented consideration of "participation" is helpful for some families to comprehend the meaning and the necessity of occupational therapy.

Contribution to the practice / evidence base of occupational therapy.

The main foci for treatment resulting from the PEDI-G are meaningful for families with different cultural backgrounds living in Switzerland.