

Occupational therapists as leaders in interdisciplinary educational teams: Forging collaborations through the use of participation-focused assessments.

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Introduction: Occupational therapists are uniquely positioned to emerge as leaders in inclusive education. The use of participation-focused assessment enables therapists to make unique contributions to the educational team in that: 1) information regarding children's ability to engage in the role of the student is useful to school professionals, 2) assessing participation requires a holistic approach that evaluates both the child and the educational environment, and 3) gathering information about participation requires the input of many persons and creates an opportunity to strengthen the interdisciplinary team.

Objectives: This poster will summarize three participation-focused assessments, based on the model of human occupation, and identify ways in which these assessments provide occupational therapists with the opportunity to collaborate and emerge as interdisciplinary team leaders.

Description: The COSA is a child self report of competence and value for everyday activities at home, school and the community. The COSA helps ensure that the child's perspective is considered when generating educational plans. The SCOPE assesses the extent to which child and environmental factors facilitate or restrict a student's participation. Data can be collected in a variety of ways, many of which provide opportunities for collaboration (i.e., teacher interviews). The SSI is a child interview used to evaluate child-environment fit. Therapists then enable students to negotiate with teachers and other professionals to implement needed modifications. Summaries of assessment research and available translations will also be provided.

Discussion: Several pediatric assessments based on MOHO provide occupational therapists with the opportunity to forge and strengthen interdisciplinary collaborations while facilitating the participation of children with disabilities in inclusive educational environments.

Contribution to practice: This poster supports best practice by introducing participation-focused, evidence-based assessments that are culturally responsive and translated into numerous languages. Additionally, this poster enhances attendee's leadership skills by introducing strategies that support collaboration and communication.