

1312

Driving clinic for people with disabilities - Experience in Argentina

mariana bonetto

FLENI, escobar, Buenos aires, Argentina

Introduction: Driving is today an essential task for adults, important for their social integration, being, not a privilege but a necessity for the person with disabilities, their families and community. In this context, since 2002, this project emerges as another service that can be provided in a rehabilitation center. Our mission is to cover all the problems presented by persons with disabilities to achieve independence in activities of the daily living.

The Driving Clinic is located within FLENI, Rehabilitation and Therapeutic Education Institute in Escobar, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Objective:

- Show Argentina's experience in the driving clinic, as another intervention adapted to our local practice.
- Show the data recorded during this period (2002-2009), being significant a number of 200 people assessed.

Description: This program emerges at a specialized institution specialized with a long trayectory, in the care of neurological patients, which the exsistant discilines organized themselves for the development of this clinic. In this context driving assessmentfor persons with disabilities was developed. Disciplines: physician, Audiology, Physical Therapy, Psychiatry, Neuroopsychology, Neuroophthalmology and Occupational Therapy. Over 200 people have been evaluated, this shows expertise in this type of approach.

Discussion: It was taken as background experience in other countries like USA, Australia or Canada, specially Occupational Therapy, where their intervention has been highlighted. Our experience is different as it had to be done with resources and guidelines from our context. Occupational therapy performes contextual functional assessments: driving simulator, behind the wheel assesment in a closed circuit and the subsequent recommendations, taking into account existing resources. Within the team, our intervention is a very important pillar in the assesment process.

Conclusions: The recognition of OT interventions has been achieved in a field where OT didn`t participate and no data in our country was found.. The recognition has not only in our everyday work in the institution, but , also in other fields.

Contribution to Occupational Therapy practice: Continue expanding our intervention, incorporate experience from other developed countries and adapt them to our regional problems.