

Promoting family health and engagement in occupation: Understanding and addressing the family's occupational profile, occupational performance and performance patterns

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The Occupational Therapy Practice Framework: Domain and Process. 2nd edition (Framework-II), a document developed by the American Occupational Therapy Association to summarize the interrelated constructs that define and guide occupational therapy practice, is used to articulate the concepts in this paper. The Framework-II process promotes an interactive and collaborative relationship between the client and therapist. There are three components to the Framework-II process: (a) The evaluation process, (i.e., obtaining information through the occupational profile and evaluating occupational performance and performance patterns); (b) collaborative development of an occupation-based intervention plan; and (c) evaluation of the intervention to determine if health and participation are supported through the engagement of occupation. In addition, the interplay of context and environment on these factors is taken into consideration (AOTA). When the primary client is a child, a family-centered approach is necessary because family stressors impact the underpinnings of the social and occupational participation of the child and the family (DeGrace, 2003). Therefore, it is necessary to include the family in the Framework-II process. In addition to understanding the child's occupational profile, occupational performance and performance patterns, one must understand these factors as they relate to the family. A narrative approach is valuable in obtaining the additional information and allows the family to further explore and reflect on these aspects. The knowledge gained through this process assists in the collaborative development of an intervention plan that addresses the family's and the child's needs. To optimize health and participation, the intervention plan may include providing occupational therapy services to the family and the child. A case study that demonstrates the results of engaging in this family-centered approach will be presented. In the case study, secondary to social and occupational deprivation, services were provided to the family to address their occupational performance and performance patterns. Improved engagement in meaningful occupations and family health were evidenced.

References

American Occupational Therapy Association. (2008). Occupational therapy practice framework: Domain and process (2nd ed.). *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 62, 625-683.

DeGrace, DW. (2003) Occupation-based and family-centered care: A challenge for current practice. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 57, 347-350.