

Occupational therapy intervention in pediatric infirmarie

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Occupational Therapy Service of Instituto da Criança do Hospital das Clínicas da Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade de São Paulo works with hospitalized children. They are followed through individual and group attendance, and participate in some projects developed by the service in set with the team of the play room.

The goal of the attendances is to facilitate the understanding about the illness, the hospitalization, the treatment and its repercussion in the patients' daily routines. There are two projects that approach the issue of hospitalization. The first one is a role playing game in which children take place of doctors and nurses, and dolls become patients. It helps the elaboration of feelings and increases the knowledge about diseases and treatments. The second one is a visit on different areas, to talk and learn more with the specialists about hospital's routine.

There is a periodical developed by the patients in which they explore the institutional routine in a funny way. It allows that visitors, doctors, employees and other patients look for the institution in a different perspective. There is also an exposition of the artistic activities developed in the play room and exposed for appreciation.

The opportunity to explore the hospital and to become an active partner of its own treatment is more effective after the experience of these projects, because during them it's used a proper language to reach children, and help them to express their feelings in several ways.

The possibility to continue to play and learn during the hospitalization provides pleasure moments and rescues healthy situations, which collaborate for the recovery of welfare even in a period of illness. Also it adds improvement of quality of life during the treatment, by keeping the commitment and respect to their needs, valuing their healthful aspects and watching over its psychosocial integrity.

The occupational therapist in the children's hospital establishes with the patients a relation based in learning and exchange of information. We believe that the clarification of the illness and its manifestations assists in the adaptation of the patient to this situation and, consequently, in its contribution with the treatment.