

The use of playful activities as therapeutic occupational resource in a shelter for abused children.

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Introduction: The social vulnerability of children incline the possibility of them to suffer violations of the most elementary human rights. Children in risky situation are exposed to different forms of interpersonal and structural violence, risk is understood like situations of the child's context (personal and social) which threaten the integrity of child development.

Objectives: Describe the use of games and story boxes like therapeutic occupational resources in a shelter of abused children.

Methods: Children in situation of shelter participated in this study the presence in the practices was free. The practices were developed fortnightly, in four meetings. The children were invited, by the academics of occupational therapy. The activities were developed through plays psycho-motor games like circle games and popular children games such as running, bending down, sitting, so on, with a goal of a bigger interaction among the children and the academics, furthermore favoring the reduction of the agitation psycho-motor and focus the attention. Afterwards, the children's stories were said using "story boxes" and subsequently the children were invited to explore the materials and to tell the stories and, finally was developed an activity of closure .

Results: Initially the exploration of the material was done in an aggressive and destructive way, the children presented reactions of attachment to the academics, tried call attention and fighting with the materials. The "stories's boxes" needed to be modified and adapted to reach the therapeutical objectives near this population. These changes allowed that the children started to participate in the games, to listen to the story, to handle the objects and characters appropriately and carrying out the activities of closure .

Conclusion: The playful activities allowed sheltered children to have conditions to face the situation experienced in life, making possible to have a space for preparation of feelings and thoughts favoring the performance in the areas of playing/ leisure and social participation.

Contribution to the practice: This study points out the importance of the adaptation of therapeutic resources according to function of the context in which the population target is inserted.