

Cartography of a group experience with mothers and babies under the activities studies perspective in Occupational Therapy

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This work presents a research carried out in the Occupational Therapy Course at Medical School - University of São Paulo. The aim of this research is to contribute to the development of studies and practices in Occupational Therapy, focusing on a group experience with teenagers and children in situation of social vulnerability. Concerning the importance of enlarging and giving consistence to the activities studies in Occupational Therapy, we intend to contribute , in an interdisciplinary way, to other areas that use activities as a tool to implement social participation and self emancipation. A Case Study of the Mother + Son Project = a new history was developed for two years. This project was configured as a space for dance, corporal approaches and artistic activities offered by an interdisciplinary team to teenagers mothers and their children, who lived in a shelter home in São Paulo.

The cartographic procedure was the method adopted to analyse the experience, registered by participant observation, films, photographs, oral relates and interviews. By these means we activated lines that constituted the experience through the perception of both, researchers and participants, and translate them with critical and theoretical approaches in Occupational Therapy and other fields of knowledge, such as psychoanalyses, aesthetics and subjectivity studies.

In order to understand and organize the experience, important issues were pointed out and discussed, among them the constitution of biding relationships; the attention given to the body; the relation between aesthetic experience and everyday life; the development of the ability to listen, to accompany, to propose and to improvise; and at least but not last, the singling of gestures and culture.

These elements can be useful to develop new models and technologies of social-cultural intervention throughout activities and for the empowerment of practices with children and teenagers in social vulnerability. This study confirms the occupation as a privileged field of knowledge and research in Occupational Therapy.