

2024

The challenge of implementing client-centred practice with a focus on activity and participation

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Introduction

Within occupational therapy worldwide, there is a strong emphasis on client-centred and occupation-based practice. While occupational therapists commonly want to implement such services, organizational and other factors often present major obstacles to successful implementation of client-centred and occupation-based services.

Objectives

Participants will

- 1. Be aware of the key principles of successful implementation
- 2. Recognize steps they can take to ensure successful implementation

Description

This presentation will address the key principles of successful implementation, and demonstrate the steps we can take to ensure successful implementation. Examples from common arenas for practice (e.g., acute health care, return to work, children in school-settings, community services for the elderly) will be used to illustrate how these principles can be applied in practice.

Discussion

No matter where in the world they live, our clients have an ethical right to occupational therapy service focused on those everyday occupations they want to emphasize during intervention. Yet, the organizations within which we work often restrict us with regard to the services we may provide, and/or "insist" that we fulfil a role that is not consistent with our focus on occupation. Our challenge, therefore, is to influence the organizational structure where we work in a manner that enables us to implement client-centred and occupation-based services.

As we implement such services, we must have an organizational structure that supports our focus on meaningful occupation for the benefit of our clients. Our being clear about our unique focus on occupation and using models of practice that stress client-centred and occupation-based services is not sufficient. The organization must also be aware of and sanction our unique focus and desire to practice in a manner that is client-centred and focused on each client's meaningful occupations.

Conclusion and contribution to practice

There is growing evidence that when occupational therapy is implemented effectively, positive results can be achieved. Occupational therapists must, therefore, know and apply the principles of successful implementation to ensure positive outcomes.