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Exploring the typical development of creative ability in young children: clarification of the Vona du Toit Model of Creative Ability (VdTMoCA) for children

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Vona du Toit developed the Model of Creative Ability (VdTMoCA) in South Africa between 1960–1974. The model describes the characteristics of occupation in terms of motivation and action and is organized into sequential levels.

In the last 30 years, occupational therapists in paediatric practice have tended to favour bottom-up approaches focused on remediation of client factors and performance skills. With the focus in the profession back on occupation, the role of the occupational therapist in paediatric and educational settings has become blurred and often poorly defined. Occupational therapists need a way to assess and treat children's occupational performance rather than focussing only on underlying skills. The VdTMoCA provides a framework for understanding occupational performance, but is poorly described for use with children. The **purpose** of this project was to explore the typical development of creative ability in preschool children in order to develop a description of the VdTMoCA for children.

A **qualitative descriptive research design** was used with multiple data collection methods organized in three phases. The first two phases collected qualitative interview and observational data and informed the third phase (using the Delphi technique to confirm findings). This presentation will focus on the preliminary results of the first two phases. Interviews with experts in the field and detailed observations of preschool children in daily life will be presented. The motivational level of "**self-presentation**" and the action level of "**constructive exploration**" as well as key indicators of the growth of creative ability in children will be discussed.