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Adapting the Assistive Technology Devices(ATD) Selection Framework (Scherer, Jutai, Fuhrer, Demers, & Deruyter, 2007) for application to young children in an environment with limited resources

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Introduction and Objective: The ATD Selection Framework (Scherer et al., 2007) provides a theoretical overview of different factors and their interactions that influence the Assistive Technology (AT) selection process. As the factors influencing AT selection within a resource limited environment such as South Africa may differ from those identified in the existing framework, an application of this framework may be required for this context. When selecting AT specifically for young children within a context with limited resources, further adaptations to the framework may be indicated.

Method: Two sources of data informed the adaptation of the framework. Firstly, a systematic review of factors influencing the provision of AT to children was completed. Secondly, two online focus groups were conducted, asking South African rehabilitation professionals (n=16) regarding their perceptions of factors influencing the AT selection process. Deductive thematic analysis of both the systematic review and focus group data was conducted according to apriori of themes derived from the ATD Selection Framework. This was followed by inductive thematic analysis, used to identify new themes as well as subthemes under each existing theme. This may be used to adapt the framework to be more appropriate for children in contexts with limited resources.

Results: Analysis indicated aspects of possible expansion of the framework, with subthemes broadening the understanding of the framework and its components.

Conclusion: Adaptation of the ATD Selection framework is suggested when applied to young children within an environment with limited resources, such as South Africa.