

Loani Marx

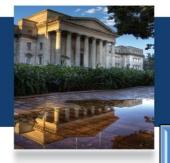
Co-authors: M van Niekerk & D Franzsen MSc study at The University of the Witwatersrand

The Perceptions of Occupational Difficulties, Support and Intervention of adolescents with learning difficulties (LDs) and their parents in South Africa





This presentation was made possible by funding from: The National Research Foundation through the University of Cape Town and The University of the Witwatersrand Occupational Therapy Department



## **Introduction & Rationale**

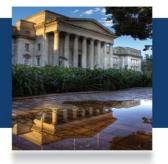
Occupational therapy for adolescents with LDs (ADHD & SLDs)

#### **Intervention dilemmas**

No followthrough Focus ≠ Adolescent occupations

Limited evidence





### Treated as big children or little adults?



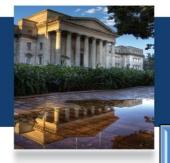
Image<sup>1</sup>



OR



Image<sup>2</sup>



## **Introduction & Rationale**

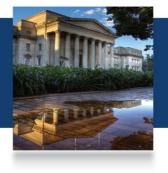
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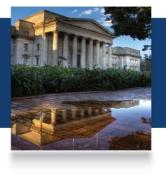




### Literature review

- Mainly from psychology key studies by Brook & Boaz<sup>3-5</sup>
- = very little occupational therapy literature specific to population
- Suggestions to adjust occupational therapy paradigms by Journey & Loukas<sup>6</sup> and Loukas<sup>7</sup>

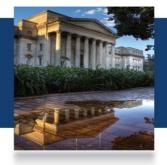




## Method

- Descriptive, explorative, qualitative study design
- Card sort of occupations ranking of occupations
- Focus groups & interviews inductive data analysis
- Occupation by Design model by Pierce<sup>8,9</sup>
- 18 Adolescents aged 13 21 years with LD (SLD / ADHD / LSEN school) – not intellectual disabilities
- 9 Parents (of adolescents participating)





## **Occupational difficulties**

3 themes

1. Developmental difficulties

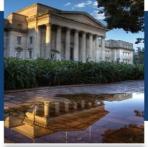
2. Occupational difficulties

3. Intervention-related difficulties





Image<sup>10</sup>

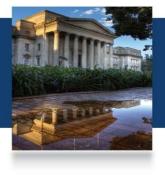


# Support & intervention

Main sources of support:		3 themes	
1.	Teachers / school environment	1. Support and mentoring	
2.	Parents(mother) & other family		
3.	Friends / Self- determination	2. Intervention	Image <sup>11</sup>
4.	Other adults / professionals (occupational therapist, psychologist, counsellor, coach)		
		3. Promotion of self-determination	







# **Conclusion & Recommendations**

- 5 Principles for intervention
- 1. Adolescent-centred
- 2. Environment
- 3. Now & future
- 4. Skills & adaptations
- Strengths & weaknesses
  Note: Proper discharge practices



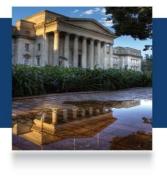




Image<sup>12</sup>



Image<sup>13</sup>

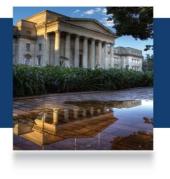


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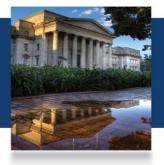




# Thank you - funding

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#### References

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