Is there a place for Occupational Therapy in Scottish schools?

Reconciling Work and Family Life – ENOTHE 2014

Karen Page. Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh.
Introduction

- What are the current services in Scotland?
- What skills can Occupational Therapists bring to primary schools?
- What are the current projects with Occupational Therapists in primary schools?

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Developmental Coordination Disorder

- **Physical**
  - Handwriting
  - Physical activities/sports
  - Personal organisation
  - Eating with cutlery
  - Dressing
  - Learning how to ride a bike
  - Tying shoe laces

- **Mental health**
  - Poor academic performance
  - Inability to carry out activities of daily living appropriate to age
  - Embarrassment
  - Loneliness
  - Anxiety
  - Low self-esteem
  - Introverted
  - Frustration
  - Poor social skills
What are the current services in Scotland?
“journeys through care services can be challenging for children with DCD”
(NHS Quality Improvement Strategy Scotland 2007)
What skills can Occupational Therapists bring to primary schools?

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Occupational Therapy skills

O “Collaboration with the client – building a collaborative relationship...that will promote reflection, autonomy and engagement in the therapeutic process”

O “Environmental adaptation – analysing and adapting environments to increase function and social participation”

(Creek 2003)
Occupational Identity

“Disability may be constructed in a way that creates barriers to participation in and contribution to society. This inevitably impacts on how children perceive themselves and what they can do, and also how others perceive them and their abilities”
(Phelan and Kinsella 2014, p.350)
What are the current projects with Occupational Therapists in primary schools?

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Occupational Therapy in Schools – OTiS (Hutton 2009)

Partnersing for Change Model (Mssiuna et al. 2012)
Is there a need for Occupational Therapy in Scottish primary schools?

- Detection of potential motor difficulties
- Collaboration with educators and parents
- Assessment and intervention carried out in the school environment
- Decrease in travel time and cost
Conclusion

- Is there a place for Occupational Therapy in Scottish schools?
  - Comfort and convenience
  - Giving children a chance
  - Increased collaboration/therapeutic rapport = better outcomes for children and families
  - Breaking down barriers/changing attitudes
- Occupational Therapists in mainstream schools – Reconciling Work and Family Life

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Reference/Bibliography:


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