Promoting Family-Centered Practice to Increase Family Quality of Life

Kelsey DeFreece Lampe, OTD/S; Belmont University, School of Occupational Therapy
Faculty Advisor: Sue Iliff, PhD, OTR/L

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INTRODUCTION

- **My passions:** Children with special needs, collaboration with families, equipping caregivers, empowering others to be their best
- **Global needs:** Inclusion for children with special needs, family involvement in child's therapy goals and extracurricular activities
- **My vision for EC:** "Empower children to reach their goals, see an increase in motor and social skills, equip caregivers, encourage their abilities, and advocate for inclusivity"

LITERATURE REVIEW

The term family-centered practice (FCP) is often used when working with children and is of utmost importance in the realm of pediatric occupational therapy. One must acknowledge the dynamic, transactional relationship between the child and family in order to best treat a child. Therefore, intervention for a child requires the involvement of the entire family, most specifically the parents. (Fingerhut et al., 2013). Since parents know their children the best, it is beneficial for both the therapy team and child's outcome to invest in the entire family unit. While all clinic therapists acknowledge the importance of collaborating with parents, many consider their practice less than optimal in tailoring intervention to the family's unique characteristics and community contexts for carryover. (Fingerhut et al., 2013). Parents feel empowered and equipped to incorporate new skills at home when working with children and is of utmost importance in tailoring intervention to the family's unique characteristics and community contexts for carryover. (Fingerhut et al., 2013). When parents feel equipped and empowered to continue their practice less than optimal in tailoring intervention to the family's unique characteristics and community contexts for carryover. (Fingerhut et al., 2013). When parents feel empowered and equipped to incorporate new skills at home, there are greater outcomes for the child as well as an overall greater family quality of life (QoL), referred to as "a dynamic sense of wellbeing of the family, collectively and subjectively defined and informed by its members, in which individual and family level needs interface" (Zuna et al., 2010, p. 462). It is when parents feel equipped and empowered to continue building therapeutic skills at home that a child's best outcomes are seen.

OUTCOMES

- **KIDtastic Gymnastics:**
  - Curriculum for future classes
  - Social participation of more children
- **Sprocket Therapy Solutions:**
  - Curriculum for remaining seminars
  - Greater rapport with parents
  - Greater carryover for therapeutic goals

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REFERENCES


Complete list of references available upon request.