Greenhouse MINISTries: A Place for Children to Grow
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Abstract
The purpose of this project was to provide the individuals of Greenhouse Ministries with appropriate resources regarding their pediatric population. In order to successfully complete, a relationship was formed with the staff and volunteers to determine specific developmental and cultural information regarding the targeted population. Interviews with staff provided insight to specific needs while children are in attendance of counseling sessions with caregivers. Children were observed during counseling sessions to better understand specific adaptations or general needs not currently being fulfilled. A resource guide was developed and provided to the staff in hardcopy form, while caregivers were provided access to a developmental milestone checklist and available resources if an area of concern was recognized. Utilizing a portion of the current waiting room a designated play space was created and specific activity ideas were implemented with the hope of encouraging participation while children are in attendance with their caregivers.

Mission Statement
Implement a developmental and activity resource guide for the volunteers of Greenhouse Ministries and a milestone checklist for attending caregivers, while providing children with the opportunity to participate in age appropriate activities within a designated play space.

Goals and Outcomes

Goal 1: Review the Literature
Annotated Bibliography
Developmental Resource Guide
Caregiver Brochure

Goal 2: Activity Resource Guide
Activity Resource Guide
Presentation to Staff
Design Play Space
Organization and Hygiene Checklist
Blueprint for Future Space

Goal 3: Establish Play Space
Play Space Before
Play Space After

Phase I
Exploration of the environment to determine specific needs of counselors, caregivers, and children. A review of the literature established a foundation of knowledge regarding specific areas of the project.

Developmental Milestones
- Ginsburg, 2007; Stagnitti et al., 2000

Parental Influence and Attachment
- Vilsman et al., 2012; Waldman-Levi et al., 2015

Influence of Socioeconomic Status
- Martens et al., 2014; Mitteer et al., 2012

Play Environment
- Doctoroff, 2001; Gonzalez-Mena, 2013

Assessing Play
- O'Grady et al., 2015

Phase II
A developmental resource and activity guide was created for volunteers. A version of the information was condensed to brochure form for caregiver’s reference.

Activity Resource Guide
- Ginsburg, 2007; Stagnitti et al., 2000

Developmental Resource Guide
- What are Milestones?
- What are Delays?
- Individual Milestones Birth-18 Years of Age

Caregiver Brochure
- Check the Milestones your Child has Reached
- Greenhouse Ministries

Phase III
A play space was established within the waiting area for children to utilize a variety of toys and activities. In addition, a blueprint for a future play space within the new building’s waiting room was created to provide Greenhouse Ministries with a design of a functional and effective area.

Future Greenhouse Ministries Play Space

Conclusion
The sole purpose of this project was to provide children with the opportunity to participate in meaningful and purposeful occupations within a designated play space, while attending Greenhouse Ministries. Where once children were seldom offered the chance to participate in age appropriate activities while their caregivers received services, they now have a wide array of options regarding active participation. Considering play is a child’s primary environment, eliciting meaningful and purposeful participation within a play space required recognizing the lack of resources and then implementing a developmental and activity guide to be utilized by staff and volunteers interacting with children. In conclusion, implementing an activity and developmental resource guide in order to provide child interaction with a designated play space entails the very definition of clinical excellence.

References

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“Instead of crying and screaming, I now hear laughter.”
--Greenhouse Ministries Staff Member