

Title: Occupational Therapy for Children with Developmental Disabilities in Taiwan

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Abstract:

Occupational therapy (OT) services for children with developmental disabilities(DD) have proliferated since its start in more than 50 years ago in Taiwan. Nowadays, these different models of OT service delivery have been developed. Beside medical institutions, OT services for children with DD are now provided in different contexts including schools, development centers, private practice and homes as a result of the advocacy of parents groups, amendment of Special Education law and the implementation of long term care services. With the expansion of intervention into the child's natural living environments, pediatric OT clinicians in Taiwan are constantly readjusting their service focus and models to meet the client's needs. Though challenging, it gives OT clinicians a better opportunity to understand the child's engagement in their daily occupation. On the other hand, researchers in pediatric OT area have also been examining and developing evidenced based programs and tools for children with special needs. Both OT clinicians and researchers in Taiwan have devoted efforts in promoting participation of our clients in daily occupations and empowering their families. This presentation will make a brief introduction of 1)current pediatric OT service practices for children with DD in Taiwan, especially in school systems and communities; 2) ongoing research and application of technology in intervention of children with DD ; 3) OT professionals' participation in advocacy of rights for children with developmental disabilities.

臺灣的小兒職能治療於 60 年代開始起步，近 60 年來無論在質和量上均有快速的成長蛻變，發展出不同的小兒職能治療模式。因著家長團體的倡議、特殊教育等相關法規的通過及修訂及長期照顧系統的啟動，除了傳統的醫療場域，職能治療師已進入各種不同場域包括學校、發展中心、治療所、家庭等為發展障礙兒童提供服務。當介入的情境擴展到個案生活的自然環境時，臺灣的小兒職能治療師也在持續修正介入的焦點及服務模式以滿足個案的需求。此過程雖然具挑戰性，但也提供職能治療師絕佳的機會可以更全貌地了解個案在日常職能的參與。另一方面，在研究領域的學者也致力於檢測及發展具實證支持對於發展障礙兒童的職能治療介入工具及方案。無論是臨床工作者或研究學者都貢獻心力於促進個案的生活參與及增能其家庭。本次報告將介紹臺灣 1) 目前對於發展障礙兒童的職能治療服務概況，尤其是在學校及社區的部分 2) 正在進行對於發展障礙兒童介入的學術研究及科技輔具之應用 3) 職能治療專業人員在倡議發展障礙兒童權利的參與。