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All respondents offered a summative metaphor which was then explored with eight occupational therapists (OTs) working in specialist CYP services. In-depth interviews were carried out using a reflexive relational approach methodology guided the use of metaphorical analysis (Ricoeur and Thompson, 1981). An interpretative phenomenological methodology guided the use of metaphorical analysis (Ricoeur and Thompson, 1981). Using a reflexive relational approach (Finlay and Evans, 2009), in-depth interviews were carried out with eight occupational therapists (OTs) working in specialist CYP services.

Of five objectives, one specifically sought to gather metaphors of 'effective occupational therapy' from participants and then offer an interpreted metaphorical explication of the phenomenon. Heideggerian (1962) interpretative phenomenological methodology guided the use of metaphorical analysis (Ricoeur and Thompson, 1981). Using a reflexive relational approach (Finlay and Evans, 2009), in-depth interviews were carried out with eight occupational therapists (OTs) working in specialist CYP services.

All respondents offered a summative metaphor which was then analysed using Nvivo® software and themed. An interpreted synthesised metaphor will be presented, aiming to evoke the sensorial, emotional and practical journey experienced by occupational therapists when effective occupational therapy happens.

There is scant evidence of what effective occupational therapy is with young people with complex MH/LD. This paper aims to provide baseline insights into the metaphorical themes shared by participants against which other occupational therapists working in similar and different clinical areas can appraise their own practice, thereby facilitating the required regulatory evidence.

The increasing numbers of children and families who use specialist community and in-patient services may reasonably expect them to be effective. Despite regulatory requirements for occupational therapists to appraise the effectiveness of their service, there is little empirical evidence to suggest that they do so.

The aim of this doctoral research was to explore the phenomenon of 'effective occupational therapy' with children and young people (CYP) with complex mental health/learning disabilities (MH/LD), through the lived experience of occupational therapists.

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Session S58.1

Occupational therapists: A metaphorical analysis of their lived experience of the phenomenon of effective occupational therapy with children and young people (CYP)

Avantaggiato-Quinn M: Northumberland Tyne & Wear NHS Trust

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Myth or reality? How do occupational therapists address the spirituality of children with physical disabilities?

Harrison V, Cox D: University of Cumbria

The founders of the profession of occupational therapy (OT) proposed one of the profession's values to be the belief in the importance to health and wellbeing of a balance between mind, body and spirit (Meyer, 1922/1977). Since that time it has been acknowledged that spirituality does have a place as a legitimate concern of occupational therapy; however, its place in practice continues to be debated and researched but often poorly understood. Research in relation to children's spirituality, within occupational therapy, is particularly sparse, which led to an interest in determining how this poorly understood aspect of occupational therapy theory was used in practice.

A qualitative design utilising Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis (Smith, Flowers & Larkin 2009) was used to determine the views, through workshops and one-to-one semi-structured interviews, of occupational therapy practitioners and academics within the UK as to the role of spirituality when working with children with physical disabilities. This presentation will discuss the findings of the research which reveal interesting insights into the way spirituality is embedded in our practice, to the benefit of the children we work with. The importance of the child-centred relationship and the contribution of occupational therapists in developing a child's identity are highlighted. The theory developing from this research will hopefully contribute in enabling practitioners to understand and have confidence in this element of their practice.
Older people

Does ecotherapy improve the quality of life for people living with dementia? A pilot study


Introduction: The advancement of quality of life for people with a diagnosis of dementia is widely accepted as an important outcome in dementia care (Department of Health 2013). Although there is a growing body of research being undertaken into the benefits of ecotherapy with working age adults, there is currently very little evidence demonstrating the effectiveness of ecotherapy group work with dementia clients (Wilson et al., 2010).

Hypothesis: Clients who attend an ecotherapy group programme will experience an increase in their quality of life as measured by EQ-5D visual-analogue scale compared to a control group of participants receiving treatment as usual.

Methodology: Non-randomised control study of ecotherapy in patients with mild to moderate dementia. Primary outcome measure was EQ-5D completed by participants at the end of an eight week programme. Secondary outcome measures included GDS with participants, ZBI and NPI with their study partners.

Brief qualitative feedback was obtained from caregivers of those in the ecotherapy arm of the study.

Results: Results indicated improved in EQ-5D visual analogue in both the intervention and control groups. Similar findings appeared in secondary outcome measures. There was overwhelmingly positive feedback from the caregivers of people in the intervention group.

Discussion: In this sample it was not possible to tell if there was a significant difference between the intervention and control groups on the primary or secondary outcome measures. Interesting positive feedback from the qualitative work provides support for progressing this study to an appropriately powered randomised study to understand if this is an intervention worth pursuing.

Ethical approval granted from the University of Cumbria Ethics Committee – approval references: UoC 12/39 & 13/34.

References


Keywords

Children and families, Occupational therapy

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