



Model of Human Occupation

Archived List Serv Discussion

COSA

November 4, 2008

Dear all,

I am a new member in the list and I have a question concerning (self) assessment for children.

I really like to use the COSA and the parent questionnaire (which is part of the German Version of the COSA) as well.

But now I am looking for an Occupational Assessment for preschool or kindergarten children.

In our research project we want to look whether children who have been referred to language therapy also have problems in motor coordination and visuomotor integration. But we also want to interview the parents about the occupational performance of their children. The age of our children will be between 4 - 9 years.

So if you have any ideas or hints I would be happy to hear from you.

Kind regards from Vienna

Erna

November 6, 2008

Hi Erna: I strongly recommend the SCOPE which measures occupational participation and the different person and environmental factors and their impact on it. It also offers Interviews for parents and teachers. The manual is very detailed and teaches very well how to use it. It teaches you a way of making conclusions and relate the different factors. It also suggests to complement your assessment with other MOHO tools as needed (ACIS, AMPS, PVQ, SSI, etc.)

Ask for it in the Clearinghouse!!!!

Good luck!!

Carmen Gloria de las Heras

November 6, 2008

Erna-

What a great question! The COSA has been used in research by children as young as 6 years of age- and those children do not have any cognitive impairments or intellectual disabilities. These children appear to respond in a valid manner to the items, BUT younger children have a more difficult time responding using the rating scale as the intended 4 point rating scale- they use it more like a 2 point scale.

The purpose of self assessment (usually) is to get children involved in the process- and so I encourage you to make evidence -based modifications to current self reports as needed to get these young children involved. You could turn the COSA into a 2 point rating scale- and just use the "ok" and "little problem" categories and the "not so important" and "important" rating categories. For children under 6, you may need to also find line drawing or "real life" photos that correspond to each item so that younger children understand what each item means. Another option is to assess children's sense of competence "on the fly" using the rating scale categories- you can observe and/or play with children in real life contexts in their home, community, and school, and while they are actually engaged in the occupation, show them the 2 rating categories and ask them how they feel about the occupation. This may be the best for the very young children, as it makes the self report process more concrete. However, you should be aware that very young children associate effort with success- if they try hard, they may say they they do a good job even if they don't, OR if they try hard, they may say its hard for them even though they did a good job! In this case, you will need to synthesize your observations with the child's self report to get the best information from the child.

Finally- you may want to check out the pediatric interest profiles-there are 3 individual "self reports"- 1 for younger children- this assessment includes line drawing and simpler rating scales, and assess involvement in leisure interests- you may find that young children are able to complete this assessment.

Best of luck to you!

Jessica

November 12, 2008

Hi Erna,

I postponed any attempt at answering your email, as I wondered if anyone else might have some ideas. Having not seen any replies: here's my suggestion.

I wonder if the SCOPE would be useful. (Short Child's Occupational Performance Evaluation). It's very similar to the MOHOST but for a younger age group - although I'm not sure of how suitable it would be for extremely young children). It includes a report format for parents to comment of their child's performance, - see the MOHO website for details.

Good luck.

Sue Parkinson

November 13, 2008

Hi Erna and all: I would add to what Jessica tells us, just to clarify and reaffirm the dynamics of MOHO evaluation and intervention process.

If you have trouble getting information with these COSA's adaptations (which I think are great) to facilitate self assessment, don't forget what I said in the other email. A good application of SCOPE plus using the PVQ or VQ according to their age (if you need), will still be focusing on children's feelings and perceptions of themselves through observation. This means that you don't lose the active participation of the child on his/her evaluation and intervention process, if you can't use the COSA.

big hug

Carmen Gloria de las Heras