



## Model of Human Occupation

### Archived List Serv Discussion

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#### **Evaluation of Long-Term Art Project**

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**November 14, 2008**

Hi all

We are 2 occupational therapists working in an adult acute mental health inpatient service. We have just introduced an art project that is facilitated at our unit by a professional arts company. We have funded this through a national lottery grant and money from our NHS trust. The project will run for 12 months approximately and we have been asked to evaluate the effectiveness of it. We have introduced an evaluation tool on how participants felt and what they liked / disliked about the sessions but would like to introduce standardised tools also. We are looking for any ideas on how we could do this using MOHO based instruments. We are familiar with many of the MOHO assessment tools through our clinical work but have not used them in a research / evaluation capacity before. We have thought of using the VQ to measure the motivational properties of art as an intervention or the MOHOST single observation tool to measure more general properties. We are not sure about research design as due to the fluctuating nature of acute care we will not get the same participants in each session and so it will be difficult to collect baseline information to measure change / progress. This is our first venture into research so any suggestions / ideas will be very gratefully received.

Kind Regards

Lindsey Simpson & Joanne Wolstenholme

**November 17, 2008**

Hi Lindsey

At the risk of stating the obvious I think your starting point needs to be clarifying your aims / expected outcomes of the project (you've probably already done this), and then using these to decide which tool will capture those outcomes

regards  
David

**November 17, 2008**

Hi Lindsey and Joanne,

I don't have any post grad research training / experience but here are some personal thoughts,

I think evaluating groups like this is always difficult. We had similar problems with an Adult Basic Education class. What is the research question you are asking? You have to decide what it is in particular the group will achieve and therefore what you are trying to evaluate; that will indicate to you what the right tool / model is to do so.

Therefore group effectiveness is linked to what the group proposes to achieve. So you have to decide that: be it, an improvement in mental health, mood, improved occupational performance, an increase in sense of self, developing interests, ability to form habitual day structure, social interaction, skill development or demonstrating how the environment enables doing. Also bear in mind the impact of what you do now may only be seen some time down the line, i.e the beginning of a volitional journey that enables the client to re-engage in their pre-admission occupational lifestyle or the development of skills that lead to improved occupational performance. Is the group a precursor to any other therapy?

I like the fact that you are developing a tool to measure the client's perception. What we think clients may get out of a group and what they achieve may be different. The client's story/ perception of what the group does for them is hugely important. It will be interesting how many see the group as meaningful activity and what the meaning is to them at that time. People often engage in art groups even though it doesn't reflect their occupational identity, so you have to consider that when asking the motivational properties of art question. (how many don't attend and why is also a valid question in this evaluation!)

You have to remember that the model proposes a theory to explain the complexity of occupational behaviour so once you have clarified all this then the appropriateness of a variety of tools may be clear. It also makes me wonder if you could evaluate change in "identified factors" that affect occupational performance.

Hope this helps

Alan

**November 17, 2008**

Hello Lindsey and Joanne-

Congratulations on your funding- your program sounds very exciting. The use of your outcome tool should be based on the goal of your project. What do you hypothesize your art program "does"? Do you believe that participation in the art program will increase occupational competence, contribute to a sense of occupational identity, increase volition??? This hypothesis should guide your choice of assessment. Without more information, I believe that the OSA would be a possible tool, or even the AOF. You may also find the OPHI useful- it would be interesting to see how participation in the program changes individual's narrative and sense of occupational identity and competence. There

is a plethora of information of how the OPHI has been used in research and practice in this way- I suggest reviewing the ESD and EO research program publications (evidence briefs are available on the website, and so are the program intervention manuals) as well as the 4th edition MOHO book includes a summary table of all research done on the OPHI. Chapter 9 (I believe!) on narrative in the 3rd and 4th edition of the MOHO book may also be useful.

Best of luck to you, and I would be happy to provide you with further ideas-

Jessica