



Model of Human Occupation

Archived List Serv Discussion

Parents with Learning Disability

September 30, 2008

Hi,

I'm an occupational therapist working in Glasgow LD services. My work involves the functional assessment of mothers with LD. I have been using the MoHOST now for some months and I have found it to be very useful in my practice in the assessment of an individual's occupational performance and how that may impact on their ability to parent their child(ren). What I am experiencing, however, is that there are professionals within the children & family social teams who ask me to use MOHOST to assess parenting skills, something which I'm not comfortable with.

I wondered if there was anyone out there who has used MOHOST or adapted this to assess parenting skills. I am thinking that those who work in mental health may also have come across something similar in their practice.

I would welcome any advice.

Regards,

Liz Brown

October 3, 2008

Hi Liz,

You're skills are obviously appreciated by your team - it's great that they see the value of the MOHOST, and to know that it is helping you in your work.

You're right that the MOHOST focuses on concepts that affect occupational participation/adaptation generally. I'm sure that you'll have explained to your team however, that parenting involves the many skills covered: motivation (stacks of it!), roles and responsibility, communication skills and process skills etc etc etc. Or from another perspective, parenting involves a myriad roles: nurse, risk assessor, cook, teacher etc etc - and often we can draw conclusions regarding how someone might perform in a new role, from how they've performed in other roles. So even if the MOHOST assessment is largely based on how the person participates in non-parenting activities, it could help you to build a picture of their likely parenting skills. Having said that, each MOHOST should reflect how the person is within a given environment, - some people that cope well in formal work environments find parenting very stressful - so you could complete a MOHOST (or at least a single observation MOHOST ... or two) based on how they are in the home with their children around them. Would this meet the needs of the team?

Good luck,

Sue Parkinson.

October 6, 2008

Dear Liz: I agree with Sue in all her comments...
carmen gloria de las heras

October 7, 2008

Hi Liz

Out of personal choice I have tended to use the OPHI-II and OSA with the parents I work with. I find this has given a really good overview of their occupational behaviours, perceptions and motivation. It often brings up parental responsibilities (or noticeably the individuals lack of mentioning them!) and can then be built on to write a specific report on parenting skills. I tend not to use the MOHOST, so I'm afraid I can't comment on that.

It is great that other professionals are asking for you to use MOHOST, as they must be comfortable with the reporting and format of the model. I would like to know more about which specific parenting skills they are enquiring about – there are so many! As I described I will use the OPHI-II and OSA to get an overview from their narrative, but also like to spend some time with the client and their children to observe the interaction. Recently I have been working with someone who has real difficulties knowing how to play with his children and how to set and stick to boundaries. A true assessment of these needs observation – is there any facility/ opportunity for you to try using the VQ or ACIS? Would these be appropriate? (Just thinking aloud here!) Once you have the data you could build up the relevant assessment in a way that feels comfortable to you.

Good luck with it

Catherine Hadrill

October 7, 2008

Hi Liz, I will add to what Sue noted. While the MOHOST is a generic tool it has been adapted to understanding particular occupations (e.g., work) and/or occupational in specialized settings (e.g. nursing home) I think there are a couple ways you can approach it. One is to score the MOHOST overall for the parent's occupations which may include parenting but also include other things such as self-care, work and leisure. Then one would focus on creating a sub-report (qualitative) that comments on how each area affects parent. A second approach is to use it for the sole purpose of assessing parenting in which case one would simply note on the assessment that it was scored with specific reference to how the factors impacted participation in the parent role. In this case the rating is tailored to that specific area of performance. You might want in this case to

develop a focused brief interview, observation, and or proxy report that would structure how you assess the parenting role and use this data collection method to guide how you gather information for scoring the MOHOST. We have done that, for instance, in our work rehabilitation setting where we use the MOHOST to assess the impact of volition, habituation, skills and the environment on work.

I would also supplement the ratings with a qualitative report structured per the MOHOST. In this case, you may also want to have a specialized format for reporting. If you do aim to develop such an application of the MOHOST, please do share it with us. We will make any of these supplemental materials for the MOHOST available on the MOHO website as downloads for MOHOST users.

Gary Kielhofner

October 7, 2008

I would add too this, don't forget about how people are able to integrate or accept into their parenthood the support from others in those tasks that they cannot accomplish. And like Gary says about the consideration of the other factors, the existing environmental support which is unique for each person.

We have used the approach of interviewing using the OPHI-II or an adaptation of it if necessary. Also like the MOHOST offers, interviewing family and related people. We have also interviewed neighbours because in our culture they become part of our routines and self help.

I think for this role and other roles, it is always necessary using the two approaches Gary recommends together. It gives a vision in perspective, and facilitates better practice.

big hug

Carmen gloria de las Heras