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Expanding the Concept of Play

Allison Vachon
University of Southern Maine

Kylie Lyon
University of Southern Maine

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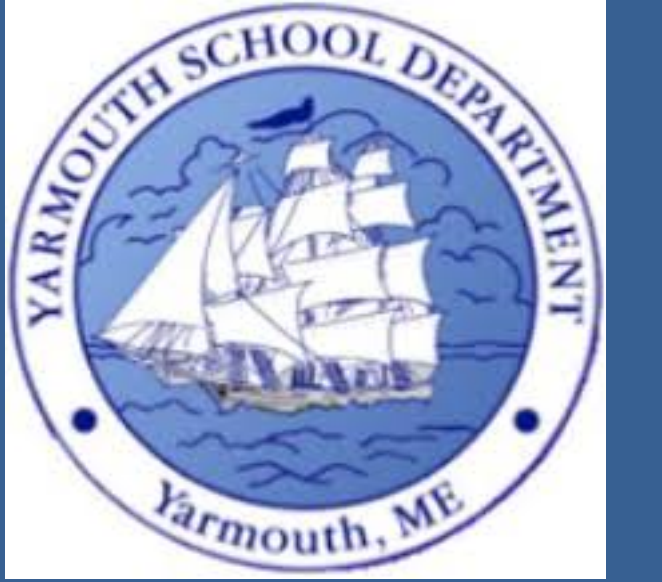
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Expanding the Concept of Play

Allison Vachon MOTS, Kylie Lyon MOTS, Bernadette Kroon PT, DPT, GCS, CEEAA



Clinical Question: What play based occupations benefit medically fragile children?

Inclusion Criteria

- ❖ Children with complex conditions
- ❖ Special health care needs
- ❖ Physical disabilities
- ❖ Play
- ❖ Developmentally delayed
- ❖ Assistive technology
- ❖ Social participation



<http://katewarelcsu.com/>



www.lifespan.org

Clinical Bottom Line

A child who is medically fragile often experiences a lack of play opportunities (*occupational deprivation*) due to their disability.

With the help of assistive technology and expanding the concept of play, these children can still engage in play occupations.

Findings

Intervention:

- ❖ Movement to Music program
- ❖ Powered mobility riding toy
- ❖ VOCA communication aid

Benefits:

- ❖ Increased social participation
- ❖ Increased inner drive to engage
- ❖ Increased parent understanding of play

Limitations

- ❖ Limited research within this population
- ❖ Small sample size
- ❖ Play is multidimensional
- ❖ Multiple missed treatment sessions

"Through play, children learn how to adapt to their environment, gain knowledge about objects in their surroundings and develop cognitive, social and perceptual skills"

(Ferland, 1997)