Expanding the Concept of Play

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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

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”

(Perland, 1997)

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