Hi All,

I currently work in adult mental health and soon hope to be working in a child adolescent mental health in inpatient and therapeutic day service. However I do not know which assessment tools may be suitable for under 18 year olds in this setting. I expect developmental disorders to be a fairly common diagnosis. Any information would be great.

Many thanks
Tom

February 28, 2013

Tom,

When I think about choosing assessments I always have to ask myself what do I want to learn from the assessment. What are the primary needs of the population as a whole? Do you need to determine if they have limited participation in occupations? The CAPE/PAC would help here for the children. Do they have problems with ADL performance (PADL or IADL) or schoolwork performance for the youth? The AMPS or School AMPS would be good. Do they have problems in social interaction? The ACIS or ESI would be good. There are many other questions/needs to consider: Roles, Competence, etc.

If you are in a position to choose new assessments for a program, keeping them focused on occupation would be important to help define the role of occupational therapy in that setting.

--Lou Ann

February 28, 2013

HI Tom,
Within our organisation the use of the COSA (or OSA depending on maturity of the individual) has been used very successfully within CAMHS services. The beauty of the COSA/OSA option is that it directly engages the child/young adult in self-reflection and appraisal and explicitly supports them to consider what is important, and what goals they would like to work towards. This process in itself can be highly therapeutic. Another option, for those unable to cope with the cognitive or emotional aspects of the COSA/OSA is using the SCOPE or MOHOST. These are both quick and flexible and will allow for a good over-view of the individual’s occupational participation using the range of MOHO concepts. Other assessment tools (MOHO and others) may then be helpful to focus in on specific areas, or to look a particular performance evaluation or practice settings (school, home, social environments).

Hope this helps

Janet

February 28, 2013

Dear Tom:

Depending on the developmental age of the children adolescents you could use the SCOPE for screening tool, or if it is more suitable MOHOST.

In addition, the observational tools VQ, ACIS and AMPS are very helpful.

As self assessments, the OSA or COSA.

One important aspect to consider is when you get into the setting, do a needs assessment to evaluate the occupational needs (including support and restrictions of the environments) and according to that, to your work schedule, timing and other, prioritize the most useful tools for the people you will serve and the services you can provide.

Other important aspect is to read well the assessments before you make a decision. I hope you have the last edition of MOHO book (2008) which gives you an overview of the different instruments.

If you need a more detail answer, do not hesitate on contacting me.

Warm hug!
Carmen Gloria de las Heras, MS, OTR
Chile