Assessments for Learning Disabilities:

My OT department is currently reviewing models, approaches and assessments used in our learning disabilities service. Has anyone else completed such an exercise and did you come to any conclusions? We would welcome any views.

Kelsa

Reply:

In 2001 I wrote my Msc. Thesis on the validation and usability of the ACIS in the care of intellectually disabled clients in the Netherlands. A major conclusion was that the instrument is a valid and reliable tool and suitable for use with this client group according to experienced OT's (N=24) working in this sector. The tool also has intrinsic disadvantages but well worth using. It especially is use in observation units in mental health care in the country and Belgium. This is also available at the OT Dept. at Karolinska, Stockholm and the Amsterdam OT School.

Dick van der Pijl

Reply:

I worked in the school system for three years, with students with multiple impairments and learning difficulties. I think MOHO is a great theory for working with this population. I think it's strongest components in this instance are volition and the conceptualization of the environment.... making sure that people with learning difficulties' values and interests are not only identified and respected but used as the focus for service provision takes us in the direction of client centered practice. Recognizing the importance of the environment, both physical and social, allows us to identify environments that support clients and allow meaningful participation.

Depending on what age and the client, there are several MOHO assessments. If clients are in the schools or "student" aged, then the PVQ (pediatric volitional questionnaire), the COSA (child occupational self assessment) or OSA (occupational self assessment), or SSI (school setting interview) are great overall assessments. The AMPS (assessment of motor and process skills) and the ACIS (assessment of communication and interaction skills) are good for specific skill assessment. In addition, the role checklist and interest checklist offer some good and valuable information in a short time period.

Jessica Keller, Chicago