

Fostering Knowledge about Participation in Occupations for Children and Youth: Processes and Outcomes of a Knowledge Translation Project

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Background

- Occupational therapists promote the health and development of children and youth with disabilities by fostering their ability to participate in everyday activities.
- In the past 10 years, there has been a substantial increase in research on child and youth participation.
- After developing and validating the Participation and Environment Measure for Children and Youth (PEM-CY) (Coster et al., 2011), we secured funding to develop resources and share knowledge about children's participation.



Objectives

- To develop and evaluate evidence-based resources about children's participation and the environment, as well as an online platform for sharing these resources.

Methods

- Our study was guided by the Knowledge to Action model (Graham et al., 2006).
- We held a stakeholder meeting, including:
 - 5 parents of children with disabilities
 - 6 service providers
 - 2 researchers
- We held a webinar and received feedback from 62 international participants.
- We developed participation resources in collaboration with parents of children with disabilities – our "Parent Advisory Group".
- We created the Participation Knowledge Hub to share the participation resources.



- Users of the participation resources completed the *CanChild Usability Survey*.
- Urchin (web analytic software) were used to analyze data about number of users, location and documents accessed.

Results

- Participants in the stakeholder meeting indicated that they wanted to receive information about participation in a variety of formats. They liked the idea of having the information available in one location, such as a subsection of a well known website.
- Based on stakeholder input, we developed the **Participation Knowledge Hub** which includes:
 - Participation tip sheets for children and youth, parents, service providers and organizations
 - Success stories about children's participation, including video clips of young adults describing what participation means to them
 - An online version of the PEM-CY for parents with automated scoring (an electronic version for researchers and organizations is being developed)
- The PEM-CY has been translated into 9 languages (including French, German, Hebrew, Icelandic, Korean, Portuguese, Serbian, Spanish and Traditional Chinese) with more in progress.
- From July 2013 to February 2014, the Participation Knowledge Hub was visited 7,783 times (most visits were from Canada, USA and Australia).
- 98% of survey respondents (n=234) said they would share information about the Participation Knowledge Hub.
- Written materials respondents (n=142) indicated that the tip sheets gave them ideas to help children participate more fully (average rating = 5.5 out of 7).
- Electronic PEM-CY respondents (n=77) reported that they found the reports easy to read and understand (average rating = 5.8 out of 7).



<http://participation-environment.canchild.ca>

"Your website is an inspiration and I am always happy to encourage parents and teachers to access it as I know it is evidence based and will not lead them astray."
Knowledge Hub Survey Respondent

Conclusion

- The Participation Knowledge Hub is an online resource designed to facilitate transfer of knowledge about child and youth participation and the environment.
- Using a process that involved stakeholders throughout enabled us to develop relevant and useful information for parents, service providers and agencies.
- Practical resources, combined with the power of real-life stories, brings evidence to life and can help lead to knowledge uptake.



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References

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