

# "Eating Onn" - A Joint Lunch Therapy Intervention

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This article describes the lunch group held during the last four years in the "Onn" school that serves students with cerebral palsy, muscular diseases and neurological disabilities. It is based on the ecological model and the importance of family routines for the socio-emotional development of the students. The group's goals were to encourage functional and social participation during a lunch meal. The 'eating together as a group' activity allows the students to experience eating among peers and to imitate each other. Participation requires motor and sensory skills, and cognitive characteristics such as planning, maintaining the continuity of operations, use of tools, and eating habits. The students were responsible for arranging the classroom before the class activity and for cleaning up afterwards. The students were required to take responsibility, commit to their roles, relate among themselves, understand social situations and were rewarded by a sense of competence and empowerment. Feedback from students indicated that they experienced a change in their social and functional performance as a result of participating in the group. However, the future operation of the group is uncertain and depends on the continued support of the occupational therapy team.