
Editorial - November 2014

The May volume (23, 2014), was dedicated to articles on group intervention in occupational therapy, and was edited by **Dr. Nava Keren and Mrs. Efrat Ben-Naeh**. We received many manuscripts, more than could be included in one issue, and after much deliberation the guest editors chose the few articles reflecting different aspects of group intervention. However, there were many good manuscripts that related to various group activities and populations and consequently, it was decided to bring them together and to publish them in this issue. The Columns' editors joined in this effort and dedicated the papers to group activities as well.

The vast interest and use of group principles in various interventions in occupational therapy is reflected in the many articles sent to the IJOT, and certainly will be reflected in the ISOT's coming annual meeting which is dedicated to clinical practice, theory, and research in the area of group intervention.

And now on to the content of this volume. It begins with, **Regaining Family Function through Occupational-Based Family Therapy: A Case Study**. This article presents a new Occupational-based Family Therapy (OFT) intervention, which uses the principles of occupational therapy. Unlike most interventions

that involve family members as part of treating a client, in this intervention the client is the entire family. The article describes the principles of the program and illustrates this with a case study of a family treated in this fashion.

The second article, **Occupational Therapy in the Community – Working with Populations at Risk: “Playing Together” – A Group Treatment Intervention for Children within the Foreign National Community**, presents an occupational therapy community intervention for children in the foreign community in Tel Aviv. The intervention included a group of kindergarten children at risk and the author describes the principles that focus on advancing the adaptation and the social participation of these children, within the educational framework. Readers can learn about this unique population's characteristics and needs and the principles and practice of such a group.

The third article discusses **Group Therapy for Self-determination and Self-Advocacy in Adults with Intellectual Disabilities - A Case Study**. The goal of this group's intervention was to enhance and improve self-determination and self-advocacy skills that are required in the participant's work setting. The author describes the model that guided the intervention, a psycho-educational model, which aimed

at skills acquisition as a method to acquire interpersonal skills and develop self-awareness.

The article in English, **Accessing the Community: A Group Intervention to Enhance Community Mobility for Adolescents and Young Adults with Cerebral Palsy**, describes an intervention within a population that is challenged with both cognitive and motor difficulties. In this intervention, the context of the group was to promote a specific function, mobility in the community, while raising the awareness, social functioning, and self-determination of its participants. The author raises an important point; though efforts are being made to promote accessibility in the environment so that people with disabilities can use public transportation, one still needs to provide training due to the many difficulties they face in the area of community mobility and use of public transportation. However, instead of providing individual treatment sessions, the author describes a group intervention and lists its benefits. The program uses principles from the various areas of knowledge: cognitive intervention, emotional adaptation and modulation, social skills, and goals setting using the GAS. These principles are detailed through a literature review and case study examples.

The Personal Glimpse column, describes **a project carried out in a 'supported occupation' center.**

A group activity for individuals with mental health disabilities was geared toward staging a show. The column describes the approach used and the process that the group underwent.

The Technology and Internet column closes this issue. The authors demonstrate **how occupational therapists use the computer as a tool for achieving the rehabilitation goals of individuals with mental health difficulties in a 'supported occupation' center.** They review standardized assessment instruments (questionnaire and observation) that are used to estimate performance in various tasks with the computer and internet. The authors describe examples of methods they used to promote the use of the computer and the internet. The authors discuss which activities can be carried out in a group setting and the importance of the group in the context of computer use.

Pleasant reading,

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