

Mothers Experience and Expectations of Their Involvement in Their Child's Therapy

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Background: The involvement of the child and parents at all stages of therapeutic intervention, contribute to the efficacy, attainment of goals and satisfaction of all involved in the process. However, studies have found that there is a gap between understanding the importance of working by the principles of this approach and its implementation. **Purpose:** The aim of this study was to shed light on the expectations and experiences of parents regarding their involvement in OT intervention. **Method :**Phenomenological qualitative method was the primary approach by means of in-depth, semi-structured interviews. The research group consisted of 10 mothers of children with developmental difficulties, treated in private clinics of occupational therapy in central Israel. **Results :**Qualitative analysis of the findings identified three main themes: (a) "The amazing occupational therapist"- mothers mentioned the containing, sensitive and available nature of the therapists in their comprehensive treatment approach towards the child's overall functioning; (b) Lack of clarity in definitions - professional definitions, occupational therapy treatment goals and mutual parent and therapist roles; (c) "Between the clinic and home" - mothers referred to the transition of that which transpired in the treatment room to their home, as well as to the implications of the intervention to family life. **Conclusion and implications:** The study suggests that mothers experience the treatment of their children as being sensitive and relating to the needs of the entire family. They indicated that the availability and sensitivity of the occupational therapist are important professional strengths.
