

society. Occupational therapists should listen to the voices of people with disabilities to better understand their life experiences, develop improved cultural competence, and thus enable them to provide intervention that is more culturally sensitive.

Cultural Adaptation of the MAAGAN Program for Ultra-Orthodox Preschool Boys - A Case Study

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MAAGAN is a pediatric screening and intervention program designed to help prevent developmental delays among preschool children. Cultural factors significantly influence the effectiveness of such programs. The formulation of intervention programs must ensure that they match the needs of the child, his/her family and educators. Ultra-orthodox Jews present a unique challenge in this respect. They live apart from the general society as a distinct minority, and they value their separate lifestyle as contributing to sanctity. This paper describes the cultural adaptation of the MAAGAN program for preschool boys within the ultra-orthodox sector. The adaptation process included three main steps: 1. Establishment of cooperation with

the spiritual leadership 2. Surface changes and deep restructuring of content and delivery, and 3. Pilot study- a feasibility and efficiency survey completed by 12 preschool teachers. The cultural factors influencing the effectiveness of this screening and intervention program for ultra-orthodox children included language, gender separation, adoption of modesty standards, and coordination with the community's authority leaders. The lessons learned were applied to the pilot testing of the program, resulting in a feasible model for this culturally inaccessible population. Intervention program adaptation for minorities must take their unique cultural distinctions into account to assure full cultural accessibility without loss of therapeutic fidelity and efficacy. This adaptation process is an example of the cultural accessibility of occupational therapy services in multicultural society.