
Editorial – March 2020



Dr. Batia Marom



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Dear readers,

Firstly we would like to congratulate, **Noami Hadas Lidor**, editor of the “From a personal viewpoint” column on receiving the title of professor. We are proud of your accomplishments and grateful for all the many contributions you have made to this journal over the years.

The working premise of Occupational Therapy as a therapeutic profession is that participation in daily activities contributes to health and a higher personal quality of life for individuals.

Two articles in this edition shed light on the connection between occupational activities and culture:

The first article deals with the **The Perceived Meaning of Occupation among Children – The Differences between Israeli Arab and Jewish Children**. The results of this study indicate that meaning and value children attribute to their occupation is connected to their cultural background. For example, children within the Arab community presented positive results

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with difficult situations as compared to children within the Jewish community. One explanation that the researchers proposed for these results includes the fact that one can make a connection between values and norms as attributes within the two varied communities from which the children come from. It is possible that arab children who are influenced by a behavioral approach, direct a person for self-control and less expression of objection during times of hardship. As a result, they have a tendency to view certain activities as less strict. This is in contrast to children who do not have these values. At this time, the implications of this research are theoretical, nonetheless the findings may contribute to an increased awareness of the different perceptions of activities between these two cultural groups.

The second article **Action Over Inertia**, focuses on participation in meaningful activity for the advancement of healing people with psychiatric disorders. Although this intervention was developed for a psychiatric population, it is possible to learn much from this approach and apply it to additional populations.

Handwriting is a critical skill for school aged children. Indeed, at a time in when computers are at the center of much activity it is of utmost importance

to emphasize the importance of learning grapho-motor skills, as a significant stage prior to learning handwriting. The article in this volume examines The Relationship between Graphomotor Abilities and Executive Function in **Preschool Children**.

The English article discusses a case study of a child diagnosed with Rhombencephalosynapsis. The influences of motor disabilities on the child's play skills are discussed. Occupational therapy intervention emphasized emotional and environmental factors together with the importance of parental collaboration.

The **“From a Personal Viewpoint”** column explores the journey of an occupational therapist working in psychiatric rehabilitation within the Arab community. Through this story it is possible to view the changes that have taken place within the Arab community from the perception of rehabilitation of individuals dealing with psychiatric illnesses.

The **“Point of View”** column reviews the book “From Rehabilitation and Recovery in Mental Health to Community Integration” edited by Prof. Naomi Hadas Lidor and Prof. Max Lachman. The book contains articles on rehabilitation, recovery and integration of mental health issues within the community, including

both theoretical and practical articles. The authors of the papers in this book are academics, paraprofessionals, users and their family members. The book presents new models as well as descriptions of daily work experiences

Finally, the editorial board thanks **Dr. Sharon Kirshner**, who is completing her work as editor of the **“Technology and Internet”** column. We wish you good luck Sharon as you continue your professional journey and welcome **Sivan Regev** to edit the column starting with the next issue.

Yours truly,

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