

Occupational Therapy and Autism:

The Occupational Therapy role in diagnosis, intervention and integration/inclusion

Expressions of Interest Sought
Melbourne/Sydney – Semester 1, 2011

Autism spectrum disorder, asperger's syndrome and pervasive developmental disorder are some of the fastest growing diagnoses. These developmental disabilities cause severe impairment to a child's communication, social interactions, play skills and behaviour. The role of Occupational Therapy with these children and their families is to gain an understanding of the individual's abilities and difficulties in performing daily occupations such as play, school, leisure and personal care activities. As well as providing intervention and strategies to assist the child's development within a number of domains including:

- Fine motor and visual perceptual skill development
- Sensory processing/modulation
- communication and interaction skills, including play skills
- adapting to their environment/routines.

This three day workshop aims to give occupational therapists an understanding of the breadth of their role in the multidisciplinary team with regard to assessment and interventions with these children and their families.

Aims/objectives of the workshop are to provide participants with:

- An understanding of the Occupational Therapy role in assessment and diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder, (including an overview of various assessment tools)
- gaining an overview of the frames of reference/treatment approaches that underpin Occupational Therapy intervention for these children and their families, focusing on the areas of sensory processing difficulties/sensory modulation and play/social communication.
- Gaining an understanding of task adaptation/environmental modifications that may assist these children to participate in self care tasks such as feeding, personal hygiene and sleep
- Gaining an understanding of task adaptation/environmental modifications that may assist these children to attend and participate in school-based activities.

Arrival tea/coffee, morning tea, afternoon tea and lunch provided. This workshop is suitable for occupational therapists.

About the Presenter

Dr Chris Chapparo PhD, DipOT is widely recognized on an international level for her contribution to occupational therapy through her teaching, research and community service activities and she has received various awards for her work. Dr Chapparo has interests in cognition, management of sensory/ motor problems in children and adults and occupational therapy theory. She is the co-author with Judy Ranka BSc (OT) MA, of Occupational Performance Model (Australia). Dr Chapparo is a founding member of Sensory Integration International and the Australian SI Faculty and she is a neurodevelopmental therapy instructor. Her research interests lie in the areas of children's information processing and social participation.

Expressions of Interest sought for this workshop. Please contact Zi Mei Events on info@zimei.com.au or (07) 3847 8375 to register your interest.