

Supporting the Occupational Roles of Infants

Current directions in occupational therapy practice

Expressions of Interest Sought - Online

Semester 1, 2022

Infancy (birth to 18 months) describes a period of rapid development in the areas of systems regulation, motor control, play and cognition and social interaction. During this period infants learn to master many foundation skills required to make sense of the world, develop secure relationships, learn, and meet expected developmental milestones. It is a critical period of brain development heavily influenced by environment and experiences; including the ability of caregivers to read and respond to infant cues and meet their needs.

Effective targeted intervention for at risk groups (i.e., vulnerable populations, identified diagnoses) has the potential to prevent or minimise the long-term impacts on a child's development. Empowering families through coaching can help the infant overcome developmental challenges and reach full potential.

Occupational therapists have a unique role in supporting infant performance and participation in daily activities and routines. The role is well supported by an increasing body of evidence in the areas of family centred care, interactive approaches, and the understanding of successful interventions for this age group.

Workshop Content/ Objectives

It is envisaged that the workshop would cover the following aims/objectives:

- Occupational roles of infancy
- Overview of Infant Assessment
- Clinical reasoning for at risk groups (eg cerebral palsy, delayed interaction)
- Clinical reasoning for prioritisation in practice: who to see and how often?
- Introduction to intervention approaches for Early Intervention

Workshop Delivery

Participants will be provided with an integrated system of pre-reading material, online content, and participation in scheduled group presentations/tutorial session. Participants will require access to the Internet for some or all workshop content.

This workshop is suitable for occupational therapists.

About the Presenter

Lisa Findlay - Lisa is a Clinical Lead Occupational Therapist at Queensland Children's Hospital. She has over 30 years clinical experience with infants and has contributed to education, research projects and online resource development. Lisa has particular interests in supporting parent and infant roles, dyadic interaction and very early intervention for infants with neurological injury and medical complexity.

Expressions of Interest for this workshop are now being sought. Please contact Zi Mei Events on info@zimei.com.au or (07) 3358 3689 to express your interest.