



AOTA Specialty Conference:

Children & Youth

New Orleans, LA | December 8–9, 2023

Preconference Sessions: December 7

Program Guide

Children & Youth Specialty Conference

Thursday, December 7

Workshops

12:00 pm–2:00 pm

Studios 7–8

Workshop 1

Are We There Yet? Action Steps to Achieve Vision 2025 in School-Based Practice

Jaime Spencer, MS, OTR/L, Miss Jaime, O.T., Nesconset, NY

Current school-based practice trends are not aligned with Vision 2025 or best practices (Seruya & Garfinkel, 2020). Call to action: These action steps are required to achieve AOTA's Vision 2025 of OTPs as influential leaders in the school setting.

1:00 pm–4:00 pm

Studios 9–10

Workshop 2

Introduction to Functional Vision Screening and Intervention for Pediatrics

Jordan Porter; Erin Wentz, PhD, PT, SUNY Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, NY

This workshop addresses functional vision screening and intervention for pediatrics. There will be an introduction to functional vision including a review of available literature, and introduction to the 3-component vision model. Following review of functional vision, an evidence-based pediatric vision screen will be presented with the opportunity for hands-on practice. The workshop will end with an overview of interventions to improve saccades and pursuits in pediatric clients.

2:30 pm–4:30 pm

Studios 7–8

Workshop 3

Social Justice in School-Based Practice: Current Educational Milieu and Model of Disability in Education for School-Based OT Practice

Clarissa Stanhope; Carol Michels, EdD, MEd, OTR/L, both of TrueNorth Educational Cooperative 804, Highland Park, IL

Inclusion is best practice for school-based occupational therapy service delivery and educational outcomes. This presentation challenges participants to re-define inclusion and reflect on social, medical, and educational models of disability.

Friday, December 8, 2023

8:00 am–8:45 am

Galerie 1–3

Keynote

Tools for Cognitive and Sensory Regulation in Various Pediatric Settings

Aimee Piller, PhD, OTR/L, BCP, FAOTA, Piller Child Development, LLC, Phoenix, AZ; Jessica McHugh, PhD, OTR/L, BCP, Pn1, Healthy 360°, Sergeant Bluff, IA

Pediatric populations are struggling with increased mental health and regulation issues. A recent systematic review found that anxiety, depression, loneliness, stress, fear, tension, anger, fatigue, confusion, and worry were the most common mental health issues reported for children 4 to 19 years of age following the pandemic (Theberath, et al., 2022). Occupational therapists have a unique role in this practice area. In this session, the CYSIS and SIPSIS give practitioners tools to mitigate these issues through developmentally appropriate cognitive-based and sensory-based self-regulation strategies for children from birth to 18 years.

Concurrent Sessions

9:00 am–10:00 am

Galerie 1–3

Concurrent 101

Engaging Teens in Conversations of Race and Disability: Developing An Action Plan For Your Middle or High School Drama Club

Tara Mansour, OT, OTD, OTR/L, MGH Institute of Health Professions, Boston, MA; Ella Mansour; Michael Mansour, both of Westwood High School, Westwood, MA

Do you want to develop a student culture that embraces anti-racism, anti-ableism, and anti-oppression? This presentation supports leaders to develop an approach to support teens to address social inequalities through the performing arts.

Galerie 4–6

Concurrent 102

Life Skills Groups: Supporting the Transition to Adulthood in a Simulated Environment

Rachel Allen-McHugh, Drake University, Des Moines, IA; Christine Weiland

This session describes the life skills community engagement groups being facilitated through a partnership between an OTD program and a local pediatric outpatient clinic.

10:15 am–11:15 am

Galerie 1–3

Concurrent 103

The Impact of Visual Deficits on Academic Performance in Elementary School Children: A Continuing Education Course

Kathleen Reeves, OTD, OTR/L; Rae Ann Smith, OTD, OTR/L; Julie Watson, PhD, OTR/L, all of Bay Path University, Longmeadow, MA

Examining the link between visual difficulties and school performance supports expanding occupational ther-

apy's role in responding to this deficit area in children and meets a need for further education and research devoted to this practice area.

Galerie 4–6

Concurrent 104

Uniting the Pediatric Intensive Care Units: Creating a Hospital Wide Culture of Mobility

Katrina Budzynski, PT, DPT, PCS, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA; Meghan Burkhardt, MS, OTR/L, BCP, Philadelphia, PA; Audrey Wood, MS, PT, DPT, PCS, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

A cohesive early mobility (EM) program, across all pediatric ICUs, is imperative for a hospital wide culture of mobility where EM is the standard of care.

11:30 am–12:30 pm

Galerie 1–3

Concurrent 105

Shifting School Practice to Inclusive, Equitable, and Effective Models: Beyond the Student to the Classroom

Tanya Long-Ducree, MS, OTR/L; Carol Michels, EdD, MEd, OTR/L, both of TrueNorth Educational Cooperative 804, Highland Park, IL

Public education is shifting from traditional to inclusive support services. This presentation gives school-based OTs the tools and knowledge to innovate practice and support diverse learners through inclusive, proactive, and equitable services.

Galerie 4–6

Concurrent 106

Weaving Peer Mentor Strategy Into School-Based Occupational Therapy Practice

Elnaz Alimi, OTD, OTR/L, Crossroads Speech Therapy, Chicago, IL; Charlotte Benstine

Participants will be challenged to consider the method of peer mentor-

ing as a means to enhance academic success and as a method to promote participation within the school setting for children with special needs.

1:45 pm–2:45 pm

Galerie 1–3

Concurrent 107

Highlighting Occupation in School System Practice

Moiria Bushell, OTD, MEd, OTR/L, BCP, Exceptional Learners Collaborative, Vernon Hills, IL; Michelle Ponsolle-Mays, MS, OTR/L, Community High School District 155, Crystal Lake, IL

With school professionals often confused about the role of occupational therapy, OTPs need to use occupation-based language to show our distinct value. Using the *OTPF-4* as a guide, the OT process will be explored, highlighting occupation throughout.

Galerie 4–6

Concurrent 108

Complex Vascular & Lymphatic Anomalies: The Role of Therapy in a Unique Patient Population

Ryan Deleo, MS OTR/L CLT, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA
Contributing Author: Andrea Branas, PT, DPT, MSE, CLT

Occupational therapists have an important role in the care of pediatric clients with vascular and lymphatic anomalies. This session provides an overview of diagnoses, common impairments, and holistic interventions for this population.

3:00 pm–4:00 pm

Galerie 1–3

Concurrent 109

Creating a Virtual Educational Resource to Promote Neurodiversity-Affirming Sensory Interventions

Deanna Bourgeois, OTD; Gina Benavente, DHSc, MPH, OTR/L, Arkansas Colleges of

Health Education, Fort Smith, AR

Contributing Author: Mary Smith, PhD, OTR/L

The objective of this short course is to translate the knowledge of neurodiversity-affirming sensory interventions for application in practice. There will be an opportunity for applying content through active learning, group discussions, and Q&A.

Galerie 4–6

Concurrent 110

Addressing Diverse Feeding Difficulties in Pediatrics

Aimee Piller, PhD, OTR/L, BCP, FAOTA, Piller Child Development, LLC, Phoenix, AZ

Many children present for OT services due to feeding difficulties. This presentation will review an evidence-based intervention designed to address a variety of feeding issues to help increase overall variety of foods eaten and mealtime participation.

Poster Session

4:15 pm–5:15 pm

Galerie 4–6 Foyer

Poster 101

Optimizing Opportunities: Diversification of Career Pathways and Maximizing Pediatric Leadership Potential

Bridget Trivinia, OTD, OTR/L; Jamila Aberdeen, PT, DPT, MBA, OCS; Meghan Burkhardt, MS, OTR/L, BCP; Maureen Sullivan, MSW, MBA, all of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

Leadership is imperative for the profession. Diversification of career pathways within a traditional clinical ladder structure allows leadership opportunities for pediatric occupational therapy practitioners (OTPs) within each level of the ladder.

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Poster 102

Enhancing Self-Determination and Health and Well-Being: Routines in Adolescents and Adults with Down Syndrome: A Study

Anna Parker, OTD, OTR/L, PlayWorks Therapy, Inc., Chicago, IL; Evguenia Popova, PhD, OTR/L, Rush University, Chicago, IL

Self-determination and health management are essential to the quality of life of youth with disabilities. We present the process and outcomes of a community-based health management curriculum for adolescents and young adults with Down syndrome.

Poster 103

The Experience of Institutionalization of Occupational Therapy Among Boys in Residential School Treatment Center

Lindsey Warren, Franciscan Children's Hospital, Boston, MA

Discussion on the experience of occupational injustice shared by children living in institutionalized care is presented, along with education on implementing occupation-centered care in institutionalized settings to combat the experience of occupational injustice.

Poster 104

Smart Strategies: A Continuing Education Course for New School-Based Occupational Therapy Practitioners

Lori Bernardi, OTD, OTR/L; Rae Ann Smith, OTD, OTR/L; Julie Watson, PhD, OTR/L, all of Bay Path University, Longmeadow, MA

A continuing education course was developed for OT practitioners new to the school-based practice to provide them with the knowledge, resources, and tools to be successful in this practice area. The results supported the effectiveness of this model.

Poster 105

An Inter-Professional Trauma-Informed Care Program for Children and Youth in Underrepresented Communities: Creation, Design, and Outcomes

Patricia Precin, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA; Phyllis Simon, OTD, OTR/L, FNAP, both of Columbia University, New York, NY

Creation, design, and outcomes of a grant-funded inter-professional trauma-informed care program for underrepresented communities of children and youth will be presented to direct others in how to incorporate these principles into their practice.

Poster 106

Epidermolysis Bullosa and the Role of OT Services

Lydia Rawlins, MEd, OTR/L; Kerri Recker, OTR/L, both of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

Working with EB patients requires a broad skill set, including being aware of psychosocial issues, understanding wound management, and providing activities to increase functional independence. This poster provides an introduction to EB in occupational therapy.

Poster 107

How do Pediatric Occupational Therapists Describe their Process of Conducting Vision Evaluations?

Julia Mun, OTD, MS, OTR/L, New York City Department of Education, Brooklyn, NY; Victoria Syracuse

Vision deficits affect one's ability to engage in ADLs, school, and play. Recognizing the prevalence is necessary for OT assessment and treatment in children with visual deficits. This study explores the process OTs use when doing vision evaluations.

Poster 109

Occupational Therapy Strategies for Preschool Teachers: A Continuing Education Course

Kelly Gervais, OTD, OTR/L, Pittsfield Public Schools, Pittsfield, MA; Rae Ann Smith, OTD, OTR/L; Julie Watson, PhD, OTR/L, both of Bay Path University, Longmeadow, MA

A course was developed for preschool educators to demonstrate that occupational therapy strategies can improve student outcomes in preschool classrooms. The results supported the effectiveness of OT-led continuing education courses.

Poster 110

Implications for Mental Health and Well-Being From Social Participation Experiences of Families Raising a Young Child With Autism Spectrum Disorder

Nicole Halliwell, DSc, ORT/L, Monmouth University, West Long Branch, NJ

Contributing Authors: Julie Smith; Jessica Tsotsoros, PhD, OTR/L; Katelyn Harris, OTR; Amy Coggeshall Laurent, PhD, OTR/L; Elizabeth DeGrace, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Results of a qualitative phenomenological study show the impact of the of social participation of families raising a young child with autism on family mental health and well-being, and suggest implications for pediatric occupational therapy practitioners.

Poster 111

Adherence to Updated Clinical Guidelines Put Into Practice in a Pediatric Outpatient Hospital Setting

Lorene Janowski, DPS, OTRL, BCP, C/ND, The Hospital for Special Surgery, New York, NY; Lauren Menino, MS, OTR/L, HSS, New York, NY

Pediatric OTs developed Clinical Guidelines for treatment post-operatively of Hand Digital Syndactyly release and Supracondylar humeral fractures. Guidelines were developed based on current evidence, surgeon recommendation, and expert opinion.

Special Event

5:30 pm–6:15 pm

Galerie 1–3

AOTA Town Hall

Come and have a dialogue with AOTA President Alyson D. Stover, MOT, JD, OTR/L, BCP and AOTA's Interim Executive Director Charles Jeffers II. AOTA wants to hear from you.

Saturday, December 9, 2023

8:00 am–9:00 am

Galerie 1–3

Concurrent 201

Scoping Review of Promoting Occupational Adaptation in Improving Pediatric Fine Motor Skills

Joahnes Gatdula, OTD, OTR/L, CPAM, ITOT, CNS, Veterans Affairs GLA/Baylor University, Los Angeles, CA

Contributing Author: Christine Molo

This scoping review of OT practice in fine motor skills and occupational adaptation resulting in occupational participation provides a high level of evidence in supporting meaningful play, task-oriented self-instruction, and motor-based intervention.

Galerie 4–6

Concurrent 202

Oral Feeding Management in High-Risk Infants: Bridging Current Research Evidence to Clinical Practice

Sandra Fucile, OT Reg (Ont), School of Rehabilitation Therapy, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada

This course provides the most up-to-date evidence on oral feeding evaluation and intervention strategies, and highlights their relevance in clinical practice to optimize the oral feeding outcomes in high-risk infants in receiving neonatal care.

9:15 am–10:15 am

Galerie 1–3

Concurrent 203

Facilitating Inclusion for Neurodiverse Students: A Strength-Based Approach to Sensory Regulation Within the Classroom

Amanda Newchok, Denville Township Board of Education, Denville, NJ; Erin O'Hara

Contributing Author: Janis Leinfuss

RtLP is an evidence-based framework to facilitate occupational performance for individuals with neurodiversity and sensory processing challenges. Following this presentation, attendees will have a foundation to implement RtLP into their practice.

Galerie 4–6

Concurrent 204

Bedside Hydrotherapy for Infants

Lydia Rawlins, MEd, OTR/L; Kathy Tate, MSOTR/L, both of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

Infant Bedside Hydrotherapy is a form of aquatic therapy used by OT to promote optimal brain, motor, state, and sensory development in infants. This presentation provides an introduction to Bedside Hydrotherapy for Infants in a hospital setting.

10:30 am–11:30 am

Galerie 1–3

Concurrent 205

Applying for Time: Balancing Clinical and Administrative Responsibilities

Meghan Burkhardt, MS, OTR/L, BCP, Philadelphia, PA; Jamila Aberdeen, PT, DPT, MBA, OCS; Maureen Sullivan, MSW, MBA; Bridget Trivinia, OTD, OTR/L, all of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

Opportunities for professional development (PD) are imperative to promote

quality care in pediatric occupational therapy. An application model to request additional PD time fosters a balance between financial viability and clinical excellence.

Galerie 4–6

Concurrent 206

Incorporating Sensory Integration and Sensory Based Interventions Across Setting

Aimee Piller, PhD, OTR/L, BCP, FAOTA, Piller Child Development, LLC, Phoenix, AZ; Jessica McHugh, PhD, OTR/L, BCP, Pn1, Healthy 360°, Sergeant Bluff, IA

This session provides a brief overview of sensory interventions including a discussion on the difference between sensory integration and sensory interventions. The presenters then discuss how to implement sensory interventions in a variety of settings including early intervention home-based settings, school settings, and clinic settings.

Poster Session

11:45 am–12:45 pm

Galerie 4–6 Foyer

Poster 201

School Leadership in NY State: Perceptions of Occupational and Physical Therapy Practitioners

Jaime Spencer, MS, OTR/L, Miss Jaime, O.T., Nesconset, NY; Serena Zeidler, OTD, OTR/L, Touro University, Long Island, NY; Kimberly Wiggins

In most states, OT and PT practitioners still need a clear pathway to obtain school leadership positions. Speakers will present their research on practitioners' perceptions of leadership opportunities and their inclination to advocate for change.

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Poster 202

Post-Discharge From Neonatal Intensive Care Unit: Mothers' Needs for Health Care Resources and Social Supports

Morgan Timmerman; Evguenia Popova, PhD, OTR/L, both of Rush University, Chicago, IL

We explore a gap in family-centered care following a NICU discharge, including mothers' and providers' perspectives on supports and services for mothers of NICU graduates. Opportunities to support service access for NICU families are discussed.

Poster 203

School-Based OTP Implicit Bias Awareness

Angelica Camacho Martinez, Tampa, Florida

Contributing Author: Kathleen Schlenz, Salem State University, Salem, MA

The main objective of the presentation is to identify the OTP perception of how implicit biases may impact therapeutic relationships with school-age children. The implications for practice include acknowledgement of bias and promoting education.

Poster 205

Child Perceptions and the Effects of an Adaptive Dance Program

Susan Iliff, PhD, OTR/L, Belmont University, Nashville, TN; Emily Bryant, OTD, OTR/L, Ascension Saint Thomas and Sky High Therapy, Nashville, TN; Adrian Ewald; Amanda Wiedoff; Amaris Hornbuckle; Paige Henson; Emily Wagstaff; Kennedy Morgan; Hannah Mariani

This mixed-methods study explored the value of an adaptive dance program by evaluating changes in gross motor skills and the children's perceptions of the class. Results informed and sustained programming and procured future funding.

Poster 206

FUNDamentals: Utilizing Play Within Pediatric Brain Injury Rehabilitation

Lauren Robinson, OTR/L, CPAM; Elizabeth Parker, CTRS, both of Medstar National Rehabilitation Hospital, Washington, DC

This topic targets the importance of utilizing play within pediatric brain injury rehabilitation through research and anecdotal evidence from both an OT and TR view and will further explain the impact of co-treatment through a multidisciplinary lens.

Poster 207

Preliminary Assessment of a Standardized Vision Screening Guideline in a Pediatric Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit

Jordan Porter

This poster reviews a research study completed at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia that evaluates the impact of implementing a vision screen guideline on occupational therapy evaluations on an inpatient rehabilitation unit.

Poster 208

Examining Providers' Perspectives on Parent Participation, Family-Centered Care, and Caregiver Education in Pediatric Inpatient Rehabilitation

Carly Kleiman; Evguenia Popova, PhD, OTR/L, both of Rush University, Chicago, IL

Family-centered care and caregiver education empower caregiver participation in the pediatric inpatient rehabilitation process. This poster evaluates supports and barriers to family-centered care and caregiver education in inpatient rehabilitation.

Poster 209

Young Children With Special Health Care Needs: Exploring Primary Caregiver Perceptions of Attachment

Kathleen Schlenz, Salem State University, Salem, MA

Healthy early attachment relationships are critical to establishing sound foundations for child development. This unique research project explored the perceptions of primary caregivers in regard to attachment relationship with their young child with special health care needs.

Poster 210

An OT/OTA Partnership Model in Secondary Transition to Promote Student Success

Jan Hollenbeck, Medford Public Schools, Medford, MA

A successful OT/OTA partnership model used in secondary transition demonstrates how the OT lens can impact student success. Steps to establish and integrate OT within existing secondary transition practices will be outlined.

Poster 211

Care Coordination as Perceived by Occupational Therapy Practitioners Providing Feeding Therapy to Premature Infants

Kelly Klampert, OTD, OTR/L, Meeting Street, Providence, RI

Contributing Author: Kimberly Hartmann, Quinnipiac University, Hamden, CT

We explore how care coordination provided by OTPs to families of premature infants with feeding difficulties contributes to the overall health of the population, the impact on work life balance of OTPs, and the future education for OTPs on this concept.

2:00 pm–3:00 pm

Galerie 1–3

Concurrent 207

Translating the Evidence Based Predictors of Post-School Success to Everyday Practice With Children & Youth

Theresa Carlson Carroll, OTD, OTR/L, Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, IN; Jan Hollenbeck, Medford Public Schools, Medford, MA; Teresa Stock, OTD, Tee Stock Pediatric OT, Needham, MA; Christopher Trujillo, OTD, OTR, GCG, ATP, Midwestern University, Glendale, AZ

Recent research has identified 23 predictors of post-school success for students with disabilities. This workshop describes how OT practitioners can apply this evidence to everyday OT practice for children and youth in a variety of settings.

Galerie 4–6

Concurrent 208

Occupational Therapists in Interdisciplinary Clinics: Good for the Patient, Good for the Practitioner

Cathy Barson; Maureen Sullivan, MSW, MBA, both of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

Contributing Author: Jaime Eilbacher, PT, DPT, PCS

Providing occupational therapy in interdisciplinary clinics can be logistically and financially challenging. This course outlines a successful model of OT service delivery in various programs at a pediatric academic medical center.

3:05 pm–3:50 pm

Galerie 1–3

Closing

Social Justice in School-Based Practice: A Foundational Exploration of the Intersection of Disability and the Education System

Clarissa Stanhope; Carol Michels, EdD, MEd, OTR/L, both of TrueNorth Educational Cooperative 804, Highland Park, IL

School OT practitioners can impact attitudes toward disability within inclusive educational environments. This presentation addresses current disability practice models and how exploring OT practitioners' disability perspectives may shift practice.



Children and Youth Specialty Conference

December 13–14, 2024

(pre-conference sessions on December 12)

Seattle, WA



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