



# Foundational premises of **SAFE care** & **Occupational therapy** for children with Neurodevelopmental Disabilities

Supporting Access for Everyone

## SAFE care is:

- ✓ Care that individuals understand and want.
- ✓ Only for that person and changes with their needs.
- ✓ Accessible for their entire life.
- ✓ Fair and respectful.
- ✓ Defined by how the patients feel during the visit, how good the care is, and how much impact it has on their health.
- ✓ **Not** only defined by how good people think the care is.
- ✓ **Not** defined by how much money the care may have cost.

## SAFE care reduces or eliminates:

- ✗ Risk of physical and emotional harm to people. This includes accidents and injuries. As well as being forcibly separated from others and being forcibly made to stop moving.
- ✗ Care that isn't complete, or care that is not good enough.
- ✗ "Forgone care", which means care that you may need, but don't use. This can lead to untreated conditions. It can also lead to more people having certain health conditions.

## Occupational therapy can:

- ✓ **Establish therapeutic plan.** Practitioners must emphasize the importance of establishing a therapeutic relationship with each client (OTPF-4; AOTA, 2020). The inclusion of OT services, in various healthcare settings, should be explored, including well visits, dentist visits, and hospitalizations to name a few.
- ✓ **Create your client's OT profile.** Consider the occupational history, experiences, values, and needs of your client to tailor your client's treatment plan.
- ✓ **Provide continued care.** The occupational therapy profession's core belief in the positive relationship between occupation and health and its view of people as occupational beings should integrate throughout the life span (OTPF-4; AOTA, 2020). This includes establishing collaborative relationships that allow for continuation of care during transitional stages.
- ✓ **Create an inclusive environment.** Occupational therapy practitioners should treat all individuals equitably and without bias, while exercising cultural humility and intelligence when interacting with clients, family network, and support system.
- ✓ **Client-centered practice.** Care should be inclusive of the whole person including mental and physical well-being by addressing social emotional needs and supporting teams in various innovative areas (i.e. sensory supports for dental care visits).
- ✓ **Get involved.** Patient (family) reported outcomes should be a measure of care and impact on quality of life. Address barriers that impact quality of care to decrease and avoid poor outcomes.
- ✓ **Step up.** Be a champion for your client's needs by advocating for policies and actions that support your client's overall health and well-being.

Adapted from SAFE Initiatives, developed by Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) and Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics Research Network (DBPNet)

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