



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

To create course content to be utilized to instruct future occupational therapists in the use of trauma-informed care practices in pediatric practice.

Achieved through:

- ✓ Knowledge acquisition via at least 10 hours of direct observation of a pediatric setting already implementing principles of trauma informed care and attendance to at least 2 CEU courses.

- ✓ Course content including resources and intervention ideas

LITERATURE REVIEW

A current buzz phrase within health and human services is *trauma-informed care* (TIC). A growing number of organizations recognize the need for care systems to identify the impact of trauma on health, development, and function by implementing a trauma-informed care framework (Burke et al., 2011; Nandi et al., 2018). Despite the recognition and movement calling for the implementation of trauma-informed care, a review of current literature reveals a lack of clarity on the implementation of trauma-informed care (DeCandia & Guarino, 2015). The “trauma-informed care movement” appears to continue to be gaining in popularity across service sectors despite the continued lack of clarity of implementation, as evidenced by its inclusion in laws mandating that services be trauma-informed (Middleton et al., 2019). Continued growth of TIC may be due in part to the growing body of well-documented research denoting the impact of trauma on both physical and mental health through the lifespan and the focus on mitigating that impact on function (Anda et al., 2006; Burke et al., 2011; Felitti et al., 1998; van der Kolk, 2003). Due to the unique nature of occupational therapy’s role in providing behavioral health and physical interventions, occupational therapists should be actively aware of trauma-informed care as a framework of services and its best practice utilization. For occupational therapists to proceed effectively with utilization of a trauma-informed care framework when working with pediatric clients, greater clarity needs to be established and taught regarding trauma-informed care.

References available upon request

PROJECT COMPLETION AND OUTCOMES

During the initial portion of my project I was able to provide non-skilled observation and sensory strategy implementation to children within the classrooms at Utah Community Action and gain competence in implementing the trauma-informed care strategies used in the course. Project outcomes include student gained knowledge of trauma-informed care via CEU courses, and research. The final outcome included synthesis of knowledge and a comprehensive course regarding the implementation of trauma-informed care within pediatric occupational therapy settings. .

MISSION & VISION STATEMENTS

Mission

To build the competencies of future occupational therapists in the delivery of evidence-based, client centered, skilled trauma-informed care services in pediatric settings.

Vision:

To inspire and educate future occupational therapist to build the knowledge base, competence, and implementation of trauma-informed care within pediatric services

DELIVERABLES

**Course
Content
Binder**

**CEU
Certifications**

**Resource
list &
intervention
ideas**

**Trauma-
informed
resources for
dissemination
to future OT’s**



Future Implications for OT

Course content will teach:

Greater competence in trauma-informed care service delivery

Build skills to be future members of interprofessional teams utilizing trauma-informed care

Increase knowledge and competence of the impact of trauma on function and interventions to address those impacts on function in OT pediatric practice