

Research Resources

A monthly newsletter of the

AOTF Institute for the Study of Occupation and Health

December 2011/January 2012

Dear Colleagues,

The festive month of December is one that excites children and focuses on the joy and optimism they represent. Nowhere is this joy more apparent than in childhood play. Despite this, concern over diminished play opportunities, especially in schools, has been in the news recently. Several recent articles, including one published in the [Scientific American](#), have noted with alarm that school curricula in early education have been moving away from an emphasis on play toward an earlier exposure to school like environments. The implications of diminished play are many, including fewer opportunities to explore and create; unnecessary and perhaps harmful pressure at a time when development favors a less constrained environment, and reduced levels of exercise that contribute in subtle ways to childhood obesity.

A recent opinion piece in the [Washington Post](#) notes that play is even being redefined in ways that support the movement toward a more rigorous and focused curricula that many corporate interests advocate. In times of controversy, an informed, objective approach is always the best way to select and apply knowledge.

Over the years, occupational therapists have been important contributors to the literature on play, providing useful contributions to theory and research. This issue of *Research Resources* provides a compilation of selected play-related articles from the occupational therapy literature. We hope you enjoy this retrospective and the links we have provided about current discussions regarding play.

Meantime, the Foundation staff sends its warm greetings for a safe, enjoyable and playful holiday season. Please know we deeply appreciate your support.

Sincerely,



Charles Christiansen
Executive Director

Additional information can be found at <http://www.allianceforchildhood.org/> under research and advocacy.

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Wilma L. West Library Resource Notes

A brief look at play

Occupational therapy practitioners support, enhance, and defend children's right to play as individuals and as members of their families, peer groups, and communities by promoting recognition of play's crucial role in children's development, health, and well-being; establishing and restoring children's skills needed to engage in play; adapting play materials, objects, and environments to facilitate optimal play experiences; and advocating for safe, inclusive play environments that are accessible to all (AOTA, 2008, p. 707). This paragraph is a wonderfully succinct statement on the key aspects of play that OT practitioners address and are reflected in this month's letter.

The Position Paper on play. *Play: essential for all children*, from the Association for Childhood Education International echoes Dr. Christiansen's reflections concerning the threatened loss of play opportunities for children in the twenty-first century.

Children are growing up in a rapidly changing world characterized by dramatic shifts in what all children are expected to know and be able to do. Higher and tougher standards of learning for all populations of students are focusing on a narrow view of learning. Consequently, students have less time and opportunity to play than did children of previous generations. Few would disagree that the primary goal of education is student learning and that all educators, families, and policymakers bear the responsibility of making learning accessible to all children. Decades of research has documented that play has a crucial role in the optimal growth, learning, and development of children from infancy through adolescence. Yet, this need is being challenged, and so children's right to play must be defended by all adults, especially educators and parents. The time has come to advocate strongly in support of play for all children (Isenberg & Quisenberry, 2002).

Two recent studies by occupational therapy researchers looked at play on the playground. The first paper reports on the playground behavior of children with and without sensory processing disorders (Cosbey, Johnston, Dunn & Bauman, In Press). Results showed similar play patterns for both groups but qualitative differences in play behaviors. Bundy and her colleagues studied the play of typically developing 5 to 7-year-olds with materials of no defined purpose placed on a playground. *Teachers reported that children were more social, creative, and resilient when the materials were on the playground. Children who were creative, rather than very physically capable, became leaders in activity*, (Bundy, Lockett, Naughton, Ranter, Wyver, Ragen, Singleton & Spies, 2008, p. 522).

Pretend play and its importance is the subject of these papers by Uren and Stagnitti in 2009 and Stagnitti & Unsworth in 2000. In both, they use the Child-Initiated Pretend Play Assessment. Having valid and reliable assessments is crucial to evaluating a child's development. An early assessment was the Play History (Behnke, 1984 and Takata, 1969). A few others with which to begin your journey in investigating play are the Test on Playfulness (ToP), (Brentnall, Bundy, & Kay, 2008), the ToP and the Test of Environmental Supportiveness for Play (Hamm, 2006 and Bronson & Bundy, 2001), and the Knox Preschool Play Scale (Lee & Hinojosa, 2010; Pacciullo, Pfeiffer & Santos, 2010; Jankovich, Mullen, Rinear, Tanta & Deitz, 2008; and Knox, 1997).

Dr. Christiansen wrote about the increasing number of children who are overweight or obese. *Increased sedentary behavior in children is a factor contributing to the escalation in childhood obesity in the general population*, (Dwyer, Baur, Higgs & Hardy, 2009, p. 27). Ziviani, Macdonald, Ward, Jenkins, Rodger ...*examine[d] changes in physical activity of boys and girls, between 6-8 and 8-10 years of age and how activity patterns correlated with selected family, child, and environment factors* (2008, p.25). Another 2008 article reported on a study completed to ...*evaluate an occupational therapy nutrition education programme for children who are obese with the use of two interactive games* (Munguba, Valdes & da Silva, 2008, p. 56).

A sample of articles on other aspects of play and OT is offered for additional starting points in investigating the occupation of play.

American Occupational Therapy Association. The Representative Assembly Coordinating Council (RACC), & Primeau, LA. (2008). [AOTA's societal statement on play](#). *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 62, 707-708.

Behnke, CJ. (1984). [Examining the validity and reliability of the Play History](#). *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 38, 94-100.

Brentnall, J, Bundy, AC & Kay, FCS. (2008). The effect of the length of observation on Test of Playfulness scores. *OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health*, 28, 133-140.
<http://www.slackjournals.com/article.aspx?rid=29412>

Bronson, MR & Bundy, AC. (2001). A correlational study of a Test of Playfulness and a Test of Environmental Supportiveness for Play. *The Occupational Therapy Journal of Research*, 21, 242-259.

Bundy, AC, Lockett, T, Naughton, GA, Ranter, PJ, Wyver, SR, Ragen, J, Singleton, E & Spies, G. (2008). [Playful interaction: occupational therapy for all children on the school playground](#). *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 62, 522-527.

Cosbey, J, Johnston, SS, Dunn, ML & Bauman, M. (IN Press). Playground behaviors of children with and without sensory processing disorders. *OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health*.
<http://www.slackjournals.com/article.aspx?rid=88362>

Dwyer, G, Baur, L, Higgs, J & Hardy, L. (2009). [Promoting children's health and well-being: broadening the therapy perspective](#). *Physical & Occupational Therapy in Pediatrics*, 29, 27-43.

Isenberg, JP & Quisenberry, N. (2002). Play, [Essential for all children](#). Retrieved on November 29, 2011 from <http://www.acei.org/images/stories/global> action center/PlayEssential.pdf.

Jankovich, M, Mullen, J, Rinear, E, Tanta, K & Deitz, J. (2008). [Revised Knox Preschool Play Scale: interrater agreement and construct validity](#). *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 62, 221-227.

Knox, SH. (1997). *Play and play styles of preschool children*. Los Angeles, CA: University of Southern California.

Lee, SC & Hinojosa, J. (2010). [Inter-rater reliability and concurrent validity of the Preschool Play Scale with preschool children with autism spectrum disorders](#). *Journal of Occupational Therapy, Schools and Early Intervention*, 3, 154-167.

Munguba, MC, Valdes, MTM & da Silva, CAB. (2008). [The application of an occupational therapy nutrition education programme for children who are obese](#). *Occupational Therapy International*, 15, 56-70.

Pacciullo, AM, Pfeiffer, LI & Santos, JLF. (2010). [Preliminary reliability and repeatability of the Brazilian version of the Revised Knox Preschool Play Scale](#). *Occupational Therapy International*, 17, 74-80.

Stagnitti, K & Unsworth, C. (2000). [The importance of pretend play in child development: An occupational therapy perspective](#). *The British Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 63, 121-127.

Takata, N. (1969). The Play History. *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 23, 314-318.

Uren, N & Stagnitti, K. (2009). [Pretend play, social competence and involvement in children aged 5-7 years: The concurrent validity of the Child-Initiated Pretend Play Assessment](#). *Australian Occupational Therapy Journal*, 56, 33-40.

Ziviani, J, Macdonald, D, Ward, H, Jenkins, D & Rodger, S. (2008). [Physical activity of young children: a two-year follow-up](#). *Physical & Occupational Therapy in Pediatrics*, 28, 25-39.

Additional Reading

Case-Smith, J & Kuhaneck, HM. (2008). [Play preferences of typically developing children and children with developmental delays between ages 3 and 7 years](#). *OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health*, 28, 9-29.

Cordier, R, Bundy, A, Hocking, C & Einfeld, S. (2009). [A model for play-based intervention for children with ADHD](#). *Australian Occupational Therapy Journal*, 56, 332-340.

Njelesani, J, Sedgwick, A, Davis, JA & Polatajko, HJ. (2011). [The Influence of context: a naturalistic study of Ugandan children's doings in outdoor spaces](#). *Occupational Therapy International*, 124-132.

Schneider, E. (2009). [Longitudinal observations of infants' object play behavior in the home context](#). *OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health*, 29, 79-87.

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Reviewers needed for OTJR

OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health is

Support the Wilma L. West Library Digitization Initiative



Eleanor Clarke Slagle - an early pioneer of occupational therapy

We are almost there!

The Wilma L. West Library is embarking on [an exciting initiative to digitize](#) the original *Archives of Occupational Therapy*. These early journals (1922-1924) are the first writings of occupational therapy scientists and practitioners. Once digitized, the journals will be available for free to the public! Please support this initiative which AOTF hopes to be the first of many such projects by the Wilma L. West Library.

Conference Announcements

[Summer Research Institute on Behavioral Intervention \(June 14-16, 2012, Baltimore, Maryland\)](#)

This institute is sponsored by the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing's Center for Innovative Care in Aging and hopes to teach how to enhance intervention responsiveness through new models, frameworks, pipelines, and approaches that meet the needs of diverse

seeking interested candidates to serve on a panel to review submissions and/or for openings on the Editorial Review Board. Review panelists will be responsible for reviewing from 3-5 articles per year. Members of the Editorial Review Board may be asked to review 2-3 submissions and providing advice and counsel to the Editor on matters related to journal policy, publication decisions, or other issues related to the general development and welfare of the journal.

Those interested should send their name, credentials, contact information along with a note about their clinical/research areas to the new editor, [Kathleen Matuska](#).

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**OTJR:
Occupation,
Participation
and Health
Online
Advanced
Release**

OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health, published quarterly by the American Occupational Therapy Foundation, Inc., offers original research articles of professional interest to

aging populations and accelerate translation of intervention into practice.

[9th COTEC Congress of Occupational Therapy \(May 24-27, 2012 Stockholm, Sweden\)](#)

Occupation Diversity for the Future -- the Council of Occupational Therapists for the European Countries presents its 9th congress with more than 600 abstracts from 45 countries.

[Mild Traumatic Brain Injury: Challenges and Controversies in Diagnosis \(February 10, 2012, Toronto, Ontario\)](#)

This one-day evidence-based forum will focus on the controversies and challenges associated with the diagnosis of mild traumatic brain injury, including emotional, cognitive and behavioral problems after mTBI and neuroimaging. Workshops will focus on conditions such as vestibular dizziness, sleep disorders, neuropsychological testing and adjudication of a mild traumatic brain injury claim.

[International Occupational Therapy Conference -- Advances and Challenges in Occupational Therapy, February 24-26, 2012, Hong Kong\)](#)

Dr. Sharon Cermak is one of the keynote speakers.

[Williamsburg Brain Injury Rehabilitation Conference \(May 3-4, 2012, Williamsburg, Virginia\)](#)

Call for Oral Presentations now open! Topics of interest include clinical research studies, innovative rehabilitation techniques and interventions, and innovative clinical programs. The deadline for submissions is **December 16, 2011**.

[18th European Congress of Physical & Rehabilitation Medicine \(May 28-June 1, 2012, Thessaloniki, Greece\)](#)

The year's theme is Science and Art in Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine. Abstract submission deadline is **December 31, 2011**.

[2012 Brain Injury Summit - A Meeting of the Minds Overview \(January 9-11, 2012, Beaver Creek, Colorado\)](#)

Nationally-recognized leaders in acute care, clinical rehabilitation, community reintegration, lifelong living and applied research will present keynote, plenary and panel presentations. Sponsored by Craig Hospital and the Rocky Mountain Regional Brain Injury System

[Cognitive Rehabilitation Workshop January 13-14, 2012, Sussex, United Kingdom\)](#)

This two-day interactive workshop is suitable for professionals working with adults who have cognitive problems following brain injury. The course focuses on practical activities that can be used in the rehabilitation of attention, visual processing, information processing, memory and executive functions.

[10th Stroke Symposium - Getting the Message: Improving Communication in Stroke Care \(January 27, 2012, Toronto, Ontario\)](#)

Event highlights will include: emergency physician and award-winner medical journalist, Dr. Brian Goldman who will discuss how to

the practicing occupational therapist with a focus on occupation and fostering interdisciplinary research.
Visit: [OTJR Online](#).

Articles appearing in this "Online Advanced Release" section have been peer-reviewed and accepted for publication in the *OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health* and posted online before print publication.

[Factors Associated With the Satisfaction of Participation in Daily Activities for Adults With Class III Obesity](#)
Mary A. Forhan; Mary C. Law; Valerie H. Taylor; Brenda H. Vrkljan

[Correlates of Community Participation Among Families Transitioning From Part C Early Intervention Services](#)
Mary Alunkal Khetani; Gael Orsmond; Ellen Cohn; Mary Law; Wendy Coster

[Playground Behaviors of Children With and Without Sensory Processing Disorders](#)
Joanna Cosbey; Susan S. Johnston; M. Louise Dunn; Mari Bauman

[Goal-Directed Actions and Early Experience With Crawling](#)
Anne H. Zachry; Anita Witt

communicate when communication is difficult Workshops that will explore ways to improve the care clinicians provide to stroke patients through more effective communication * Posters and presentations revealing the latest research and practical applications in communication in stroke care.

Publications

[Restoring the Spirit: The Beginnings of Occupational Therapy in Canada, 1890-1930](#)

University of Toronto Professor Emerita Judith Friedland traces the influence of popular political and social movements of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, including the Mental Hygiene, Arts and Crafts, and Settlement House movements, and tells the stories of pioneering women in OT and describes how they established professional associations, workshops, and educational programs. She highlights the help they received from male physicians, which gave them access to those with decision-making power, and examines their work in both rural and urban environments with those from different economic and ethnic backgrounds. Friedland, J. (2011) *Restoring the Spirit: The Beginnings of Occupational Therapy in Canada 1890-1930*. Montreal: McGill-Queens University Press.

Journal of Health Communication, International Perspectives, Special Issue: Advancing Health Literacy Research
The journal is seeking original manuscripts that present empirical research in the field of health literacy. Deadline for manuscript submission: **January 20, 2012**. Any questions please email: mpo@bu.edu Author instructions can be found at: <http://www.gwu.edu/~cih/journal/>

Online Resources

[New Integrated Employment Toolkit](#)

This new online toolkit from the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy's (ODEP) includes discussion guides and answers to frequently-asked-questions for people looking for jobs, employers, community employment agencies and others. Integrated employment places both youth and adults in regular jobs in their communities, along with any needed supports, so they can earn a decent wage. In an integrated employment setting, most of the employees are not persons with disabilities.

Grant Opportunities

[The Health Care Innovation Challenge](#)

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation (CMI) is accepting grant applications to identify new models of workforce development and deployment and/or support innovators who can rapidly deploy care improvement models (letter of brief intent due Dec. 19, 2011).

[NIH Director's Early Independence Award](#)

The NIH Director's Early Independence Award Program provides a

Mitchell

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mechanism for exceptional, early career scientists to bypass traditional postdoctoral training and move into independent academic positions directly upon completion of their graduate degrees (PhD, MD, or equivalent). Early Independence Award projects will receive up to \$250,000 in direct costs each year for up to 5 years. The deadline for submitting applications is **January 30, 2012**, and the NIH expects to issue 10 awards through this program in 2012.

AOTF Institute Image of the Month

From the [Archives of the AOTA](#), housed in the AOTF Wilma L. West Library.



Child at play with therapist.

The AOTF Institute makes this image, as well as the [Guide to the Archives of the AOTA](#), available publicly as part of its mission to honor the past and be the best possible steward of the unique body of knowledge that is occupational therapy. To this end, the AOTF Institute warmly welcomes individuals from wUS soldier modeling clay, 1946.ithin and beyond occupational therapy to explore the guide and use the archives for purposes of research, education, and leadership.

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