

Supporting Early Access to Assistive Technology: An Interdisciplinary Model

Course Synopsis:

Children with complex medical needs, including both cognitive and motor disabilities, have significant limitations in accessing play, mobility, and communication, and may require expensive and potentially socially stigmatizing equipment in order to move and interact with their peers. There is substantial research consistently demonstrating the cognitive, motor, language, and social benefits to children with disabilities when given access to assistive technologies during early childhood, specifically ages 0-3 when given access to assistive technologies, yet obstacles remain to acquire and utilize these tools during this age range. This presentation will review one clinical approach to serving these children and families in order to optimize engagement with these important areas of childhood occupations.

Speaker Bio

Erin Cochran, MA, OTR/L, Bethany Sloane, PT, DPT, and Deirdre McLaughlin, MS, CCC-SLP are clinicians at the CDRC at OHSU in Portland. These clinicians have a wide range of areas of expertise from feeding to craniofacial disorders to Down syndrome and more, however, they all work closely as a part of the Early Access to Assistive Technology Clinic that they, and others, helped to form in January 2018. They have a passion for working closely with families of children with significant cognitive and motor disabilities in order to provide early and frequent opportunities to engage in play, mobility, social, and communication experiences.

Financial Disclosures: Ms. Cochran, Ms. Sloane and Ms. McLaughlin do not receive an honorarium for this course.

Nonfinancial disclosure: There are no nonfinancial disclosures

By the end of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the current research highlighting the importance of facilitating early access to assistive technology for children with complex communication and motor needs in order to support mobility, play, communication, and literacy skills.
2. Describe an interdisciplinary clinic model as an efficient and collaborative service delivery model for providing comprehensive assessment of AT needs and creating an appropriate, child-centered intervention plan.
3. Identify possible barriers for young children to having opportunities for mobility, play, communication, and literacy.
4. Describe various assistive technology tools that are appropriate for the stated population.

This course is an Intermediate Level, with content focus in Occupational Therapy Service Delivery.

Completion of this course is recognized by the OT Oregon Licensing Board as 2.5 contact hours.



This course does not necessarily imply the Occupational Therapy Association of Oregon supports the views of the presenter or the sponsors. Please keep this course information for your records.