Developing Universal Training to Meet the Health, Care, and Well being of Children and Young People

IF-05
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Background

- In 2015/16 a high volume of new request for assistance were made to Ayrshire and Arran Child Health OT team for specialised assessment of fine and gross motor skills in children under the age of 6 years.
- Triage of the requests highlighted that only 45% required specialised assessment from a Occupational Therapist.
- Need identified for additional opportunities to enable pre-school children to develop age appropriate fine and gross motor skills required for transition to Primary School.

Methodology

Child Health Occupational Therapy team identified Seaside Adventure Motor Skills programme as a universal training resource for pre-school children.

- South Ayrshire Education and South Ayrshire OT Child Health team carried out a pilot of the Seaside Adventure Motor Skills programme in 3 Early Years establishments, commencing in January 2017.
- 9 week programme designed to aid the development of gross and fine motor skills in pre-school children.
- Practicing necessary skills that precede handwriting, such as: hand-eye co-ordination, finger dexterity, wrist flexibility and strength, allowing each child a greater chance to achieve their full academic potential on entry to school.
- Pre and post assessments of 6 fine motor and 6 gross motor activities were carried out with all children participating.

Outcome

All post assessment results were collated from the 3 Early Years Centres by June 2017.
A total of 88 children participated within the Seaside Adventure programme.

Conclusions

The introduction of the Seaside Adventure motor skills programme has demonstrated that given additional opportunities children will have a greater chance of achieving their full academic potential on entry to school.

It is anticipated that by educating and training staff within Early Years Centres in relation to the key skill set that they will be better able to identify and provide early intervention to support children experiencing motor co-ordination difficulties. It is also expected that education staff will be more aware of how and when to make a request for assistance to Occupational Therapy for specialist assessment.

References

- Ready to Act, Scottish Government, 2016
- Getting It Right For Every Child, Scottish Government, 2016
- Early Years Collaborative, 2016
- Active and Independent Living Improvement Plan (AILIP, 2017 to 2020)
- Seaside Adventure, LDA Publications, 2011
- Jungle Journey, LDA Publications, 2009

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