EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES FOR SPECIAL DAY CLASSROOMS

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DESCRIPTION OF SITE

- Inner City Educational Foundation (ICEF) Public Schools.
- Located in the City of Los Angeles.
- Composed of 7 Charter Schools.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- Having a permanent Occupational Therapist daily in the special education day classrooms
- Teaching social and life skills to the students
- Providing training and education to teachers and staff about handwriting skills, cutting skills, sensory processing skills, and social skills

LITERATURE REVIEW

- Teachers have limited skills and knowledge to effectively support children with special educational needs in the classroom. Meuser et al. (2022) describes occupational therapists as the bridge to gap this issue since they are knowledgeable in matching school environments and task requirements to improve participation (Meuser et al., 2022).
- Teachers and special education teachers have limited time on have on teaching life skills to their students due to the school curriculum only focusing on academic achievement and college preparationResults indicate that life skills should be offered to this population as early as possible for better future success (Chiang et al., 2017).
- Gentil-Gutiérrez et al. (2021) emphasized how the teachers of children with ASD reported a greater need for extra outside support.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Complete a thorough consultation for 2 special day classes including drafting and implementing recommendations to update their curriculum.
- Measure the effectiveness of the curriculum recommendations within the special day classes
- Develop educational materials for teachers, staff, and parents for visual motor, fine motor, and sensory processing.
- Develop advanced clinical practice skills in school based OT.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION & IMPLEMENTATION

- 7 weeks process of interventions in the classrooms
- Spent 4-5 hours average daily in classroom elementary SDC
  - Provided education, training, coaching, collaboration to teachers and staff
- Spent 5 hours weekly in middle school SDC
  - Provided education, training, coaching, collaboration, and co-teaching to the teacher

Occupational Therapy Interventions for Elementary SDC:

Handwriting Skills

- Improving legibility
- Improving pencil grasp
- Upgrading & downgrading worksheets + homework
- Visual Perceptual Skills
- Encouraging independence in writting

Scissor Skills

- Holding Scissors
- Hand Strength
- Bilateral Coordination
- Visual/ Tactile Cues
- Body Position

Social Skills/ Sensory Processing

- Social Stories
- Peer Modeling
- Video Modeling
- Labeling/ Modeling

Other

Math Curriculum
- Manipulatives
- Visual Cues
- Multi- sensory activites

Occupational Therapy Interventions for Middle School SDC:

Social Skills

- Initiating conversations
- Greeting others

Adaptive Skills

Task Analysis
- Promoting independence in life skills

Math Curriculum

- Multisensory activities for letter formation/identification
- Use of manipulatives

SUMMARY OF DELIVERABLES

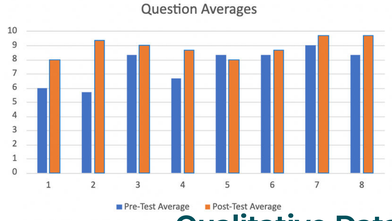
Educational Handouts

SDC Resources

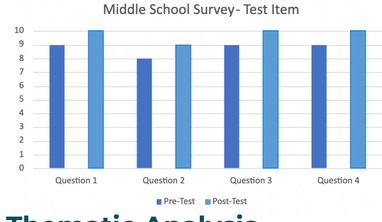
EVALUATION AND OUTCOMES

Quantitative Data

Elementary SDC



Middle School SDC



Qualitative Data/ Thematic Analysis

Elementary SDC

- "Improvements in handwrtting"
- "Helpful techniques for spacing & letter formation "
- "Helpful strtegies for cutting"

Middle School SDC

- Mentioned learning new strategies to teach social and adaptove skills "

DISCUSSION & IMPLICATIONS

- Increase in the average score in 7/8 questions for elementary SDC.
- overall increase for the pre/post test total average for the elementary SDC from 60.1 to 71 for elementary SDC.
- Increase in the average score in 4/4 questions for MS SDC.
- Overall increase for the pre/post test total average score on the survey from 35 to 39 for MS SDC.
- Results demonstrate the effectiveness of having an occupational therapy student embedded into the special education day classes as they spend more time daily/weekly in these classrooms providing extra support, training, and education to the teachers and students.
- The capstone project can provide opportunities for possible permanent embedded occupational therapy services in the SDC classrooms in the long run and open new career positions in this area.
- In the future, the role of occupational therapy in the curriculum development- elementary and middle school can be taken into consideration.

REFERENCES & CONTACT INFORMATION

Available upon request.