

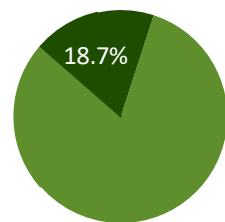
Occupational Therapy Embedded in Early Childhood (OTEEC) Partnership Model

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BACKGROUND / LITERATURE

Context & Challenges: Early Intervention (EI) is crucial for supporting young children's development, but systemic barriers such as racial disparities, low referral and enrollment rates, and inadequate professional training limit access and effectiveness

Need for Embedded OT: Evidence supports embedded occupational therapy (EOT) in natural environments, emphasizing family-centered, collaborative, and developmentally appropriate practices



Only 18.7% of eligible children are referred to EI, with racial disparities limiting access for minority children. (McManus et al. 2020).



Embedding OT in natural environments and involving families improves children's participation and developmental outcomes. (AJOT, 2017).



The OTEEC model provides universal OT access, leading to better social skills and sustained improvements during transitions (Fyffe, 2024).

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, ACTIVITIES

Project Goal: To address the identified gaps in the embedded OT model within EI by developing an educational website based on the OTEEC model and provide educational resources to OT practitioners on EOT.

Long-Term Goal: To increase integration of EOT services within early childhood education settings, thereby increasing service accessibility, improving family participation, and enhancing professional development



Activities

- Chose a website platform.
- Built site layout and navigation.
- Embedded all content and resources.
- Designed a personalized project logo.
- Completed CSU ECC site visits.
- Developed 8-module video series.
- Designed module visuals and structure.
- Recorded all voice-over scripts.
- Uploaded modules to the website.
- Meet weekly with Capstone Mentor.

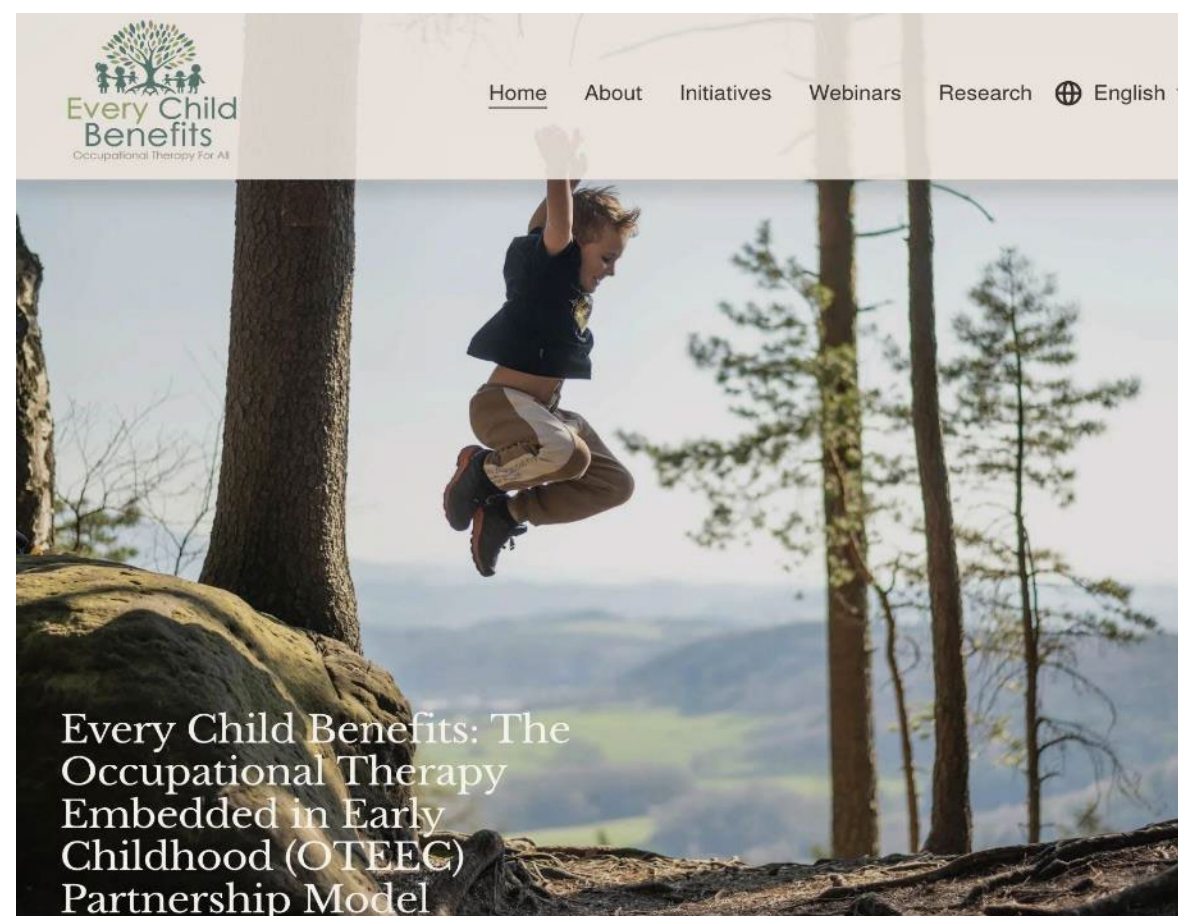


Objectives

- Week 1: Finalize deliverable layout (pages, topics, structure).
- Week 3: Organize and store 25% of required materials.
- Week 4: Begin embedding gathered materials into the handout.
- Week 6: Collect 50% of materials and complete 25% of the deliverable.
- Week 9: Gather 75% of materials and complete 75% of the deliverable.
- Week 12: Gather 100% of materials and complete 95% of the deliverable.
- Week 13: Finalize description, learning outcomes, agenda; embed all materials.
- Week 14: Complete full run-through and make final revisions.

OUTCOME EVALUATION METHOD

Weekly Feedback Meetings	• Run through website page layouts & website organization • New embedded content uploaded at that time • Go through each module together • Ensured alignment with OTEEC model and research
Accessibility	• Squarespace template • Module voiceovers • CSU accessibility team as resource if needed down the road
Sustainability	• Edits / updates able to be made by Lisa or following student • Easy to use website generator – YouTube tutorials available • Squarespace subscription managed by Dr. Fyffe • Full access to edit/update all webinars/modules.



FINDINGS

Learned the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration and family involvement in embedding occupational therapy within early childhood settings.

- Planning an EOT schedule
- OT Day

Gained insight into the critical barriers to equitable access in EI services, emphasizing the need for resource dissemination and ongoing professional development.

Embracing timeline flexibility and self-compassion throughout the revising and refining process.

CONCLUSION

Website addresses systemic barriers to EI by providing...

- About OTEEC / OT page
- The research that went into the creation of OTEEC
- OTEEC initiatives
- 8 educational webinar modules on OTEEC

The website helps promote equitable access, family involvement, and embedded OT in early childhood settings, which can lead to improved participation and developmental outcomes for children.

Limitations: need for future evaluations of actual practice changes, practitioner feedback, and children's outcomes.

- Video storage impacting uploads.

Implication: Digital tools like this website can serve as sustainable models for expanding professional training and improving EI services system-wide.



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KEY REFERENCES

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