

The Paediatric Activity Card Sort (PACS)

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An easy, fun way to develop activity profiles for young clients

The Paediatric Activity Card Sort (PACS) is an invaluable assessment tool for the paediatric occupational therapist. Developed in response to the lack of occupation-based assessment tools for use with children, the PACS bridges the relationship of occupation's performance-related components with occupational engagement. The PACS offers an interactive way to develop activity profiles for young clients, creating an enjoyable occupational assessment process for therapists and children alike. Easy-to-use photographic cards allow the therapist to determine a child's level of occupational engagement, and learning to use the PACS is easy, thanks to detailed user-friendly instructions.

An adaptation of the ACS (Activity Card Sort), the PACS is intended to provide a profile of a child's occupational repertoire at a particular point in time. This information can be used to set treatment goals, to document change and to make within-child comparisons, and is equally helpful with goal setting and intervention planning. As an occupation-based, client-centred, self-report assessment tool, the PACS allows children to identify activities they are currently doing as well as those they want to, need to, or are expected to do. The PACS:

- consists of 75 cards depicting typical activities and occupations of childhood in four categories (personal care, school/productivity, hobbies/social activities, and sports), 8 blank cards for other occupations children may identify, scoring sheets and a user manual.
- allows children to respond to questions using simple "yes" or "no" answers when prompted with the activity cards.
- can be used to identify occupational patterns in children with and without disabilities.
- is meant to be used with children, but can occasionally be administered to parents or caregivers to obtain approximations of a child's actual wants or needs.
- should be administered by occupational therapists and certified occupational therapy assistants.

For ease of portability, the PACS is packaged in a travel-friendly zippered portfolio with plenty of room for the cards, manual and forms.

Overview

Clientele Age: 5 to 14 years

Clientele Diagnoses: Any diagnosis as long as the child has an appropriate developmental age of 4 years and can respond to the pictures and questions.

Administration Time: Approximately 20 to 25 minutes

Publication date: 2004



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