

Participation of Children with Cerebral Palsy and its Influencing Factors

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Participation in daily activities in childhood is essential for the health of all children regardless of their abilities or disabilities. Through participation, we acquire skills and competencies, connect with others and our communities and find purpose and meaning in life [1-3]. Children's participation in the leisure activities can provide opportunities for skill acquisition and role competency. Cerebral palsy (CP) as the most common neurological disorder in children is associated with an upper motor neuron lesion occurring in the immature brain [4]. The children's ability in movement, communication, problem solving, and socialization is influenced by sensory-motor problems which reduce the probability of their participation in leisure activities, therefore These children may also be at risk for less participation in leisure activities. ICF categorizes participation in terms of personal maintenance; mobility; information exchange; social relationships; home life; education; work and employment; economic life; and community, social, and civic life [5]. ICF proposes that the 'context' will significantly influence the extent of their participation. This context consist personal and external physical, social, and attitudinal environment. ICF regards disability as resulting from the interaction between individuals and their respective environments, rather than as something limited to the individual.

Studies demonstrate that personal factors (e.g., age and gender) and environmental factors (such as family situation, culture, and the living place) can have impact on the children's participation. Hassani M., *et al.* [6,7] reported that the cerebral palsy can affect the diversity and intensity of the children's participation.

Measuring participation of CP children is important for planning rehabilitation and public health interventions. Selection of appropriate measures is important for clinicians and researchers in order to measure participation of children with CP. Occupational therapists play a key role in supporting children with CP increase their functional independence, and social participation. Little is known about engagement of children with CP in leisure activities and factors that influence participation in recreation and leisure activities.

Regarding the great importance of participation in the purposeful childhood activities and its impact on health and growth of children, Understanding the participation of cerebral palsy children, and influencing factors can help health care professionals in order to designing and introducing appropriate treatment according to their needs and promote their health and participation.

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