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Assessing the occupational status of children in Germany with the PEAP - a multi-perspective standardized assessment and process instrument

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Introduction: Whilst the many assessments aim at evaluating skills and abilities related to body function or activities, standardized assessments solely focusing on the complex age-specific and context-dependent aspects of occupation and participation are rare, particularly in Germany. In addition, bridging the gap between assessment findings and client-centred, occupation-based intervention in order to enable and empower clients and ensure transfer of new skills into their unique every day context remains challenging for occupational therapists.

Objectives: The PEAP (Pädiatrisches Ergotherapeutisches Assessment und Prozessinstrument) was developed to address both these challenges. The PEAP will be introduced in the presentation, and an overview of the studies involved will be presented.

Approach: The PEAP was developed systematically and scientifically, based on a number of studies, by a group of German occupational therapists. It was supported by the DVE (German OT Association) and published in 2015. Currently studies are conducted to further assess its reliability and feasibility.

Practice Implication: The PEAP assesses the occupational status of a child in relation to its age-appropriate occupations through a standardized multi-perspective approach. It combines perspectives of the child, parents, teachers and therapist, in a summary profile to graphically depict occupation-based progress. Furthermore, the PEAP offers innovative structures and ideas through formulas and actions supporting a client-centred, enabling and occupation-based therapeutic process.

Conclusion: The PEAP has been found to be a very useful by German therapists, regardless of their work experience. However, certain structures and conditions are required for its effective implementation.