

'Curiosity skilled the cat'

Critical thinking and professional curiosity as keys for continuing professional development

Joan Verhoef^{1,2}, Mieke Cardol²

¹Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences, School of Health Care Studies, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, ²Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences, Research Center Innovations in Care, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Introduction: Diversity in society and increasing demands for impact in health care lead to more complexity in occupational therapy practice. Next to professional skills, curiosity and critical thinking help to raise vital questions, clarify dilemmas or take new directions. As one of the 21st century skills, critical thinking is significant for occupational therapists.

To expand professional curiosity, critical thinking and research skills in occupational therapy (OT) lecturers, we started professional learning communities (PLCs). Based on principles of active learning, the PLCs work inquiry-based on professional themes. PLCs present methods and results in team meetings twice a year. Team members are encouraged to ask questions and demonstrate critical thinking.

In this presentation, we will share our experiences. We will discuss how to develop critical thinking and professional curiosity in OT students, lecturers and practitioners.

Objectives:

- To discuss the concepts of critical thinking and professional curiosity
- To discuss critical thinking for continuing professional development

In the presentation, the concepts of critical thinking and professional curiosity will be discussed, and the use of critical thinking skills will be illustrated with cases from our PLCs.

References

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Presenter biography:

Joan Verhoef, occupational therapist and human movement scientist, received a PhD degree in 2015 from Erasmus University Rotterdam on the thesis: 'Improving work participation of young adults with physical disabilities'. She is principal lecturer on the theme 'Evidence-based care' at Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences. As an OT lecturer she is responsible for the bachelor thesis. She co-edited books on evidence-based practice and practice-based research and is in the supervisory board of the Dutch OT Association.

Mieke Cardol started her career as an occupational therapist in rehabilitation for 15 years. After receiving a PhD degree in 2001 on the thesis: 'Beyond disability: autonomy and participation in medical rehabilitation', she performed research with a focus on participation, autonomy and quality of life of people with chronic conditions. Since 2012, she is applied research professor 'Disability Studies; Diversity in Participation' at Research Center Innovations in Care of Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences.