

Abstract No. 2 for OTARG 2011 Zambia

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Title: Working with marginalized children in rural Canada – social challenges and FASD (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder)

Theme: MDG2: Achieve Universal Primary Education

Text:

An indigenous community in northern rural British Columbia in Canada is affected by marginalization, poverty, and limited access to resources. This Occupational Therapist works with school children, many of them affected by social disadvantages such as domestic violence, poverty, lack of opportunities for recreation, and social instability. Many of the children are also affected by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), attachment disorder, and mental health issues such as anxiety. Many of them demonstrate self-regulatory disorder and learning disability.

Emotional stability and development are the foundations of children's occupation as it affects their emotional, physical, and cognitive growth. OT uses a self-regulation approach combined with drawing to enhance their self-awareness and emotional development in order to strengthen their coping ability at school.

This presentation will provide insight into three unconventional aspects of the role of the paediatric occupational therapist: work with children affected by marginalization and social disadvantage; an effort to develop a team approach with teachers; and the use of a self-regulation approach to facilitate the emotional development of children.