
Occupational Therapy Case Studies is a comprehensive collection of a variety of clinical cases. The types of cases presented range from a simple single dysfunction to complex multiple traumas. They span neonatal care to diseases associated with the elderly. Both physical and psychosocial disorders are presented and reviewed. Each case study includes critical clinical information gathered by the disciplines who were involved with the patient's care.

In the introduction, Jennie Lucci states, "These case studies have been written with the hope that there is sufficient material to be questioned by the student in the classroom setting, or provide new learning experiences for the therapist." I feel the book does accomplish these goals. The strength of the learning potential, however, is minimized because of the global perspective that is geared to a diverse audience.

With each new case and disability, the presentation format and data content are different. A few of the case studies present comprehensive and complete data, whereas others are rather vague and disorganized. In some cases study questions are interjected throughout the report; other cases list the discussion topics at the end. If the book is read as a whole, the variability of presentation format makes for laborious reading. If only a sampling of presentation formats is critiqued, then an analysis of written communication styles can facilitate development of the student's or therapist's written communication skills.

Though inconsistent in format and quality, the collection of clinical data is informative. The inclusion of a multidisciplinary evaluation expands one's understanding of a particular dysfunction. The treatments implemented by each team member facilitate one's understanding of the occupational therapist's role in the remediation of that dysfunction. The holistic perspective can add to a student's growing fund of knowledge. It also can provide valuable suggestions for the clinician who is working without the specialized input of speech, physical therapy, psychology, or nursing.

A broad repertoire of occupational therapy treatment alternatives can be identified. However, a substantial number of them use crafts as the modality for long-term goal achievement. Alternatives often used by occupational therapists, such as pure exercise, cognitive retraining, and feeding skill training, were mentioned but with less frequency. The reader should be aware of the imbalance.

For each case, study questions, answers, and suggested readings are included. Here lie the strongest methods for developing the clinician's skill level and the student's problem identification and solving abilities.

Occupational Therapy Case Studies best serves the students. The book exposes them to a variety of dysfunctions that they will encounter. It presents a relatively comprehensive repertoire of evaluations and treatments that they must be aware of. It demonstrates the endless questioning and answering that bridges the gap between therapeutic assessment and successful and appropriate treatment implementation.

Lisen Cameron, OTR

NICSEM Master Index to Special Education Materials (Volumes I, II, III). The National Information Center for Special Education Materials, University of California, University Park—RAN, Los Angeles, CA 90007 (1980), $106.00.

The Master Index is a comprehensive listing of the entire NICSEM data base of learner, professional, and parent materials relating to the care, assessment, education, and management of exceptional learners, published in three volumes. Volume I contains a description of the index, directions for the use of the index, the NICSEM Thesaurus, the Publisher/Producer/Distributor Directory, and a Reference Section. Volumes II and III contain complete descriptive information for the approximately 40,000 titles indexed.

Margaret Schafer, OTR


This guide contains ideas on: Choosing the best wheelchair; accessories that can be added for comfort, safety, convenience, and fun; how to keep the chair in good condition; and where to get the latest product information.

Margaret Schafer, OTR