Time Running Out for OTs in Schools

Royeen, in the December 1986 issue (pp. 811–813), identifies the need for evaluation research for school-based occupational therapy programs, proposes a strategy for the evaluation, and discusses the need and rationale for dissemination of the research. Therapists, concerned with school-based practice, will agree with these needs.

The comments of Gilfoyle (1984) and Hightower-Vandamm (1985), as well as my own experience, which includes research on the provision of occupational therapy in preschool/early intervention programs, suggest that we may not have the time required for this research if we expect to continue to provide occupational therapy services in education settings. Therapists who command “$1,200 per week and more” (classified advertisement, 1987) will force the system to develop alternatives for delivering services.

Among possible solutions is the passage of legislation removing therapy from the education institution. Occupational therapy integrated into education programs has the greatest potential for benefiting children. Returning to a system of separating therapy from education would be a disservice to children with disabilities and their families. This change would also adversely affect the increasing number of therapists now providing services in school settings, the second largest employer of therapists (Royeen, 1986).

Therapists have been aware of the problems for years. The questions we need to face now are as follows: How can we as professionals, concerned with providing high-quality care to children with disabilities, participate in developing the solutions, and can we mobilize our resources in time to be effective advocates for the children and ourselves.

Doris T. Bloom, MA, OTR
Forest Hills, New York

References

Tumble Forms Car Seat Discontinued

Greg Shaw’s article, “Vehicular Transport Safety for the Child With Disabilities,” which appeared in the January 1987 issue, provides vital information since this area still remains a mystery to most professionals and parents alike. However, the article contains some misinformation and some out-of-date material. The Tumble Forms Car Seat, as described in the article, has been discontinued since 1984. Moreover, this product was never tested against Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 213, as noted by Greg Shaw.

We have since designed and manufactured and are selling a new version of the Carrie Seat, which meets all Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards.

Veronica N. Bolcik, Product Manager
J. A. Preston Corporation
Clifton, New Jersey 07012

Author’s Response

I stand corrected: The Tumble Forms Car Seat had not been tested prior to distribution as was claimed by a representative from Preston in 1983. Let me add that in 1986, Dr. Marilyn Bull, Director of the Automotive Safety for Children Program at the James Whitcomb Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis, tested the seat and found it potentially hazardous.

In February 1987, the elementary and preschool sizes of the Carrie Car Seat were tested by the University of Michigan Child Passenger Protection Research Program. According to Ms. Bolcik, tests are planned for the junior size.

Greg Shaw, Rehabilitation Engineer
Memphis, Tennessee

Response to “A Critique of the Standardization of the Miller Assessment for Preschoolers”

Since the appearance in June 1983 of Georgia A. DeGangi’s review of the Miller Assessment for Preschoolers (MAP), numerous reviews and articles concerning the MAP have been published and extensive research has been completed. As a result, I feel an obligation to the readers of the American Journal of Occupational Therapy to provide a balance to the perspective expressed by DeGangi in 1983.

Scholarly criticisms will always remain an important and valued method of advancing scientific thought. However, the DeGangi review inaccurately reported

- that it is the purpose of the MAP to identify preschoolers with moderate to severe problems when in