The topics in the book are presented from an occupational therapy point of view, which is about sensory development, integration, and self-regulation. The point of view is presented within the emerging occupational therapy model of person–environment–occupation transactions. Occupational therapy references and information from other disciplines of research and literature are interwoven in an attempt to develop the total picture. In my opinion, the authors succeeded in presenting an integrated overview.

Chapters flow smoothly from one to the next. The first chapter introduces sensory systems and sensory integration. The remainder of the book addresses observations of sensory behaviors in context, patterns of sensory integration, and assessment and intervention. Appendixes present play in the context of sensory-based intervention and strategies to enhance self-initiation and adaptive behavior. One of the important messages of the book is that individual differences do not necessarily lead to learning or developmental delays or disorders.

The authors bring experience as clinicians, educators, and scholars in working with young children. Included as background are basic concepts from Ayres and subsequent occupational therapy theorists. Researchers and writers in the areas of self-regulation, infant mental health, and perception include Brazelton, Greenspan, and Kagan, to name a few, and add to the richness of the literature and theoretical background.

One of the strengths of the book is that the authors point out and make a precautionary statement about a therapy intervention technique that has no research and little literature basis. Research and edited publications by occupational therapists Case-Smith, Dunn, Fisher, Parham, and others expand the therapy overview that is based on Ayres’s theories and research.

The physical presentation, design, and readability are outstanding. I appreciate the layout of print enhanced by pictures and illustrations with occasional brief summary statements set in different print type in the wide left margin of the page.

Advanced students and practitioners working with children will find this book helpful to use as a tool to communicate these sensory issues to the multiple audiences for which the book is intended.

Using Qualitative Research: A Practical Introduction for Occupational and Physical Therapists


This brief and eminently readable book may be the answer for anyone searching for a basic text on qualitative research for introductory research courses. It provides more depth on the subject than is possible in general research texts and exemplifies the style of qualitative inquiry and writing, using the chapter authors’ own research as cases for discussion of the particular topic. Ethics, methods, and analyses are emphasized throughout the book.

As an instructional tool, this book is appropriate for either undergraduate or graduate use. I would recommend using it in conjunction with the published studies that are addressed in each chapter. The comparison of the research paper to the story of the research process should help students gain an understanding of the whole research enterprise. The book does not have the depth in any particular area to serve as a stand-alone resource for a researcher, but it is an excellent foundation for anyone beginning qualitative research. Further, it will support the research consumer in understanding how to evaluate the individual elements and overall worth of a qualitative study.

Individual chapters of the book are written by each editor and five others. The book is based on rehabilitation philosophy and practice. Aside from the introductory chapter and the final chapter on evaluating qualitative research, each chapter directly relates to a specific study. The authors discuss these “case studies” directly and personally, letting the reader in on the behind-the-scenes action of the research. The book is current in its emphasis on feminist methodology, questions of representation and accountability, and ethical issues. It discusses how qualitative and quantitative methodologies can complement each other and introduces the relation of theory to qualitative research.

This book is lively and interesting. Although it is an introductory text, I found it fresh and helpful perhaps because it exemplifies good qualitative writing. It is filled with rich description and makes ample use of quotes. Each chapter tells a coherent story and invites the reader to enter into the research process. The editors and authors have produced a useful and user-friendly resource for learning about qualitative research.

A Functional Approach to Group Work in Occupational Therapy (3rd ed.)


The third edition of Howe and Schwartzberg’s text is a user-friendly vehicle that continues to present a practical approach to group work, a treatment modality for many disability populations. A number of major educational centers have taught the Functional Group model for some years. The text mentions several research endeavors.