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Supporting Spanish-Speaking Parents Navigate Services for Children with Atypical Development

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Supporting Spanish-Speaking Parents Navigate Services for Children with Atypical Development

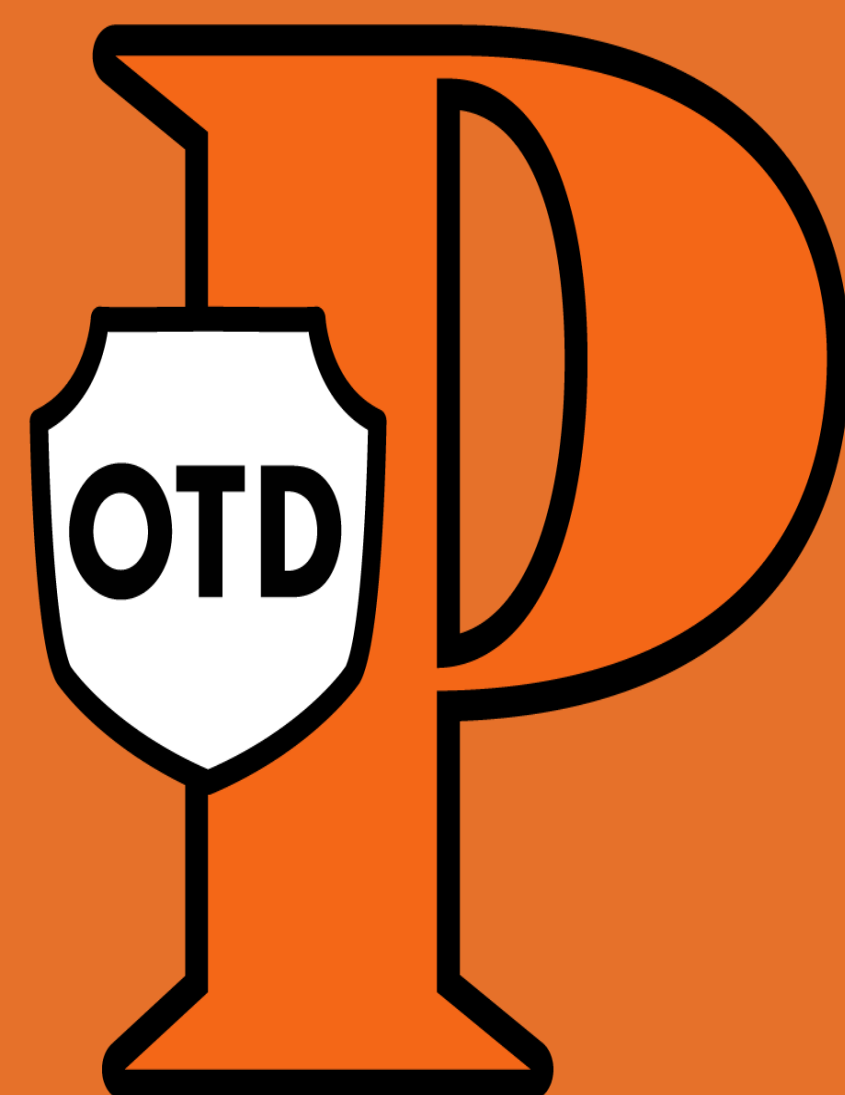
Presented by: *Anali Flores, OTD/S*

In collaboration with

Easter Seals Superior California

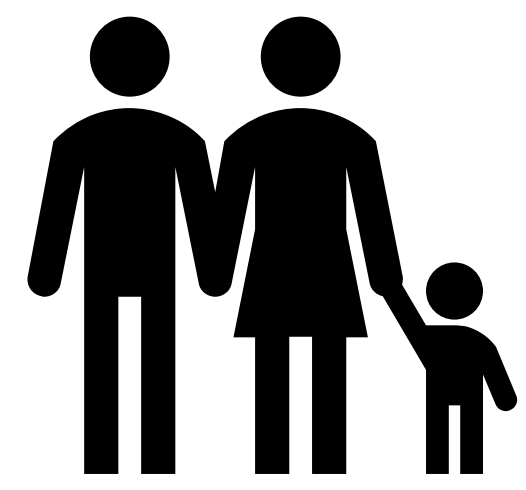
Erin Choy, OTR/L, Director of Occupational Therapy

Megan Asher, OTR/L, OTD



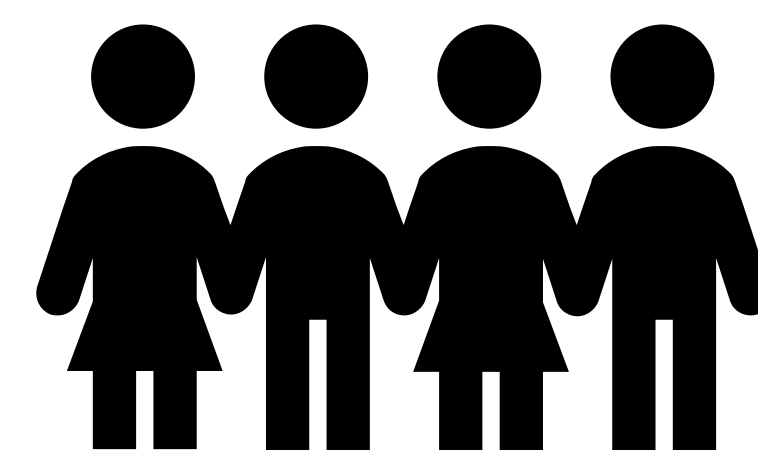
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Background



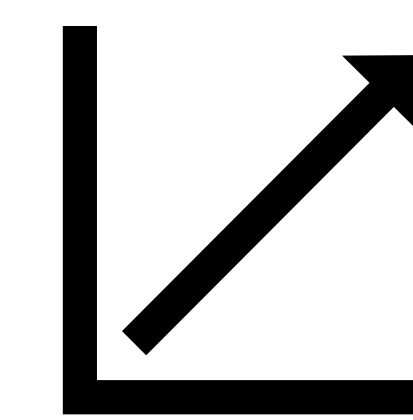
In the U.S. **1 in 36** children are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD)

(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2024)



Hispanic children have the highest prevalence of ASD

(Shaw et al., 2023)

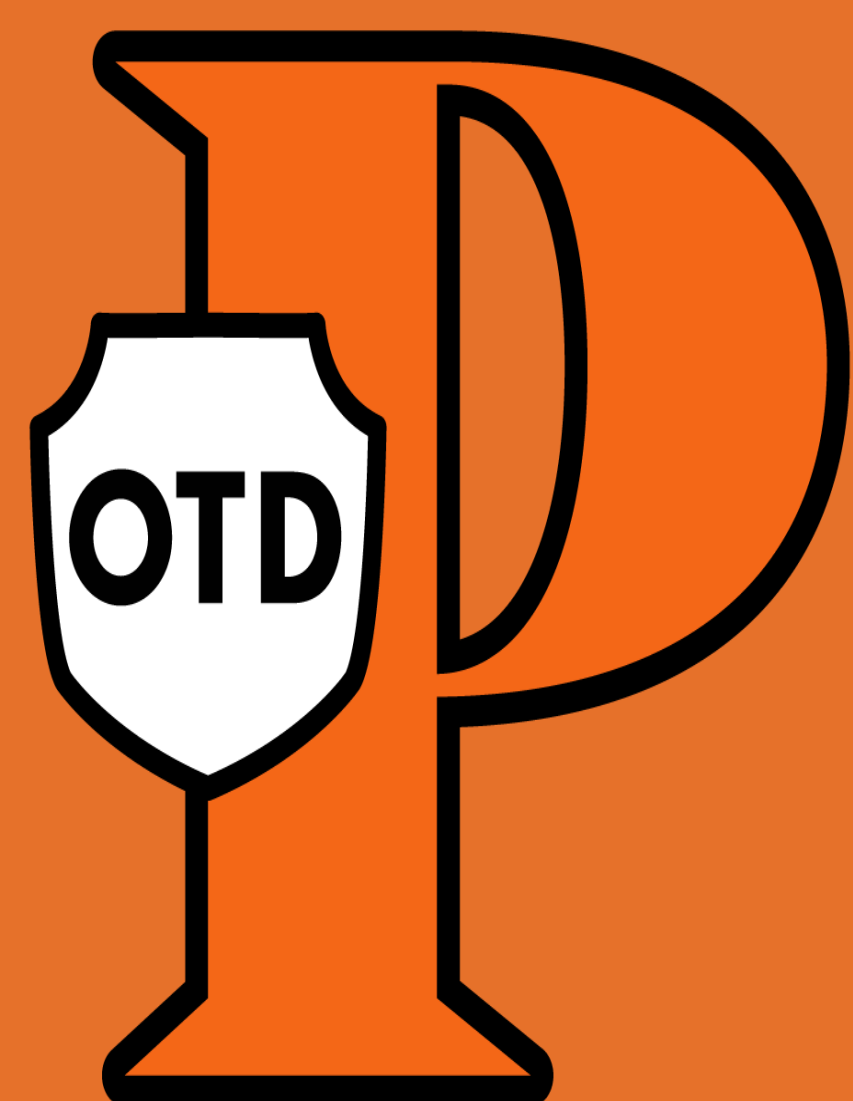


In 2020, Hispanic individuals accounted for **19%** of the population

(U.S. Census Bureau, 2023)

Within the Hispanic culture there is lack of awareness regarding early intervention, developmental disability services, or other specialized services resulting in delay or lack of diagnosis

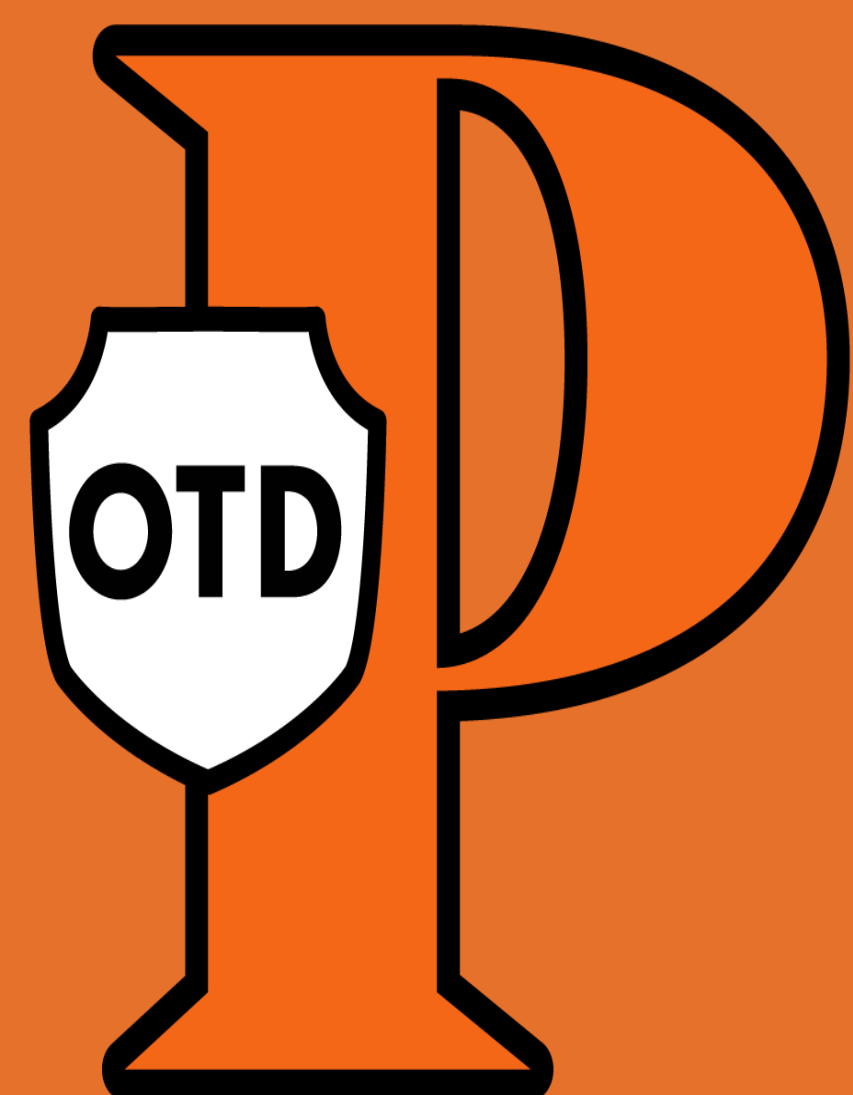
(Blanche et al., 2015; Magaña et al., 2019; Zuckerman et al., 2014; Cohen et al., 2023)



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Program Purpose

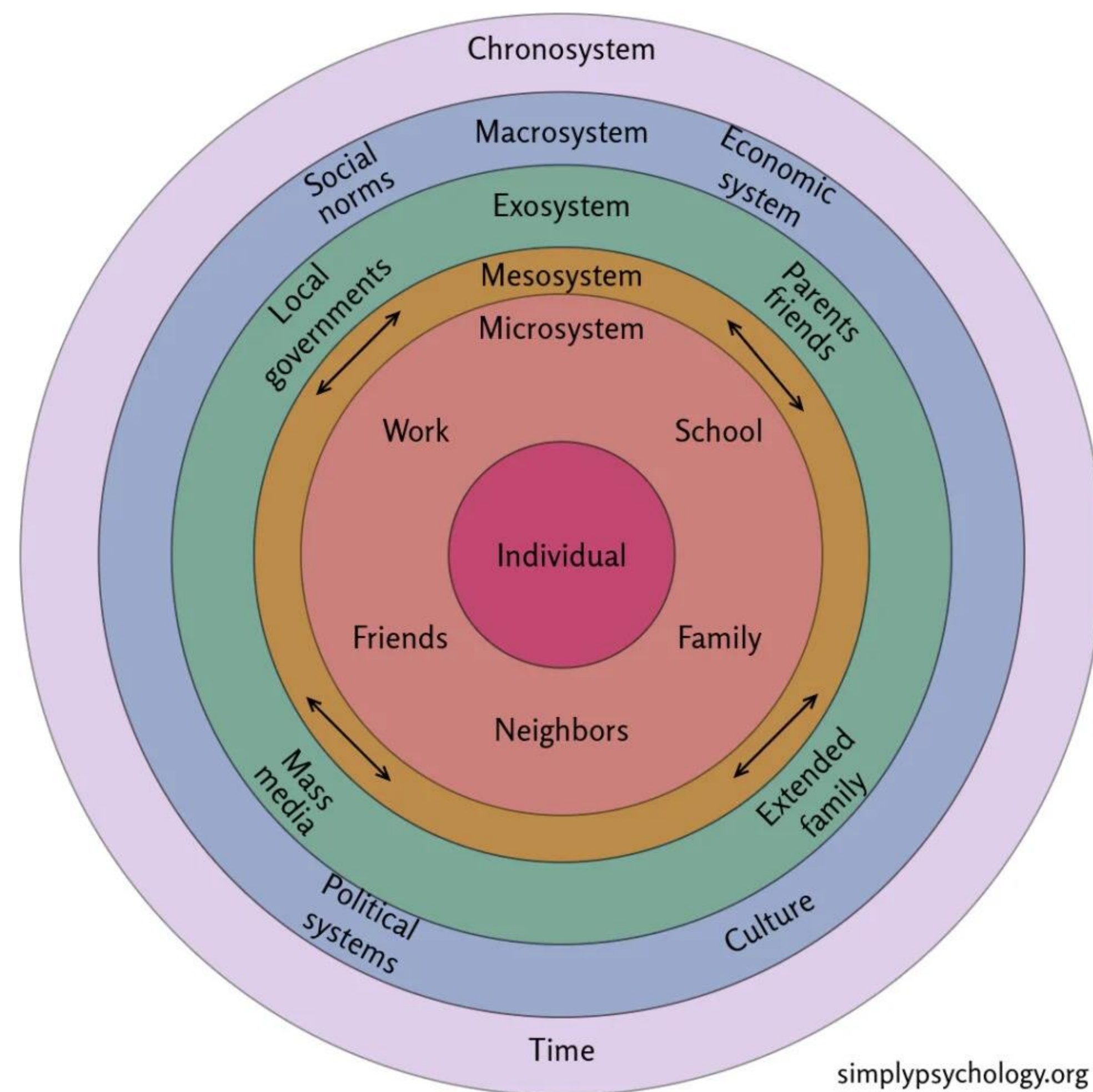
- Understand population needs and gaps in resource availability at a macro level and community level
- Develop resources adhering to health literacy principles to increase understanding of available services in order to improve parents' ability to make informed decisions regarding pediatric services and supports
- Increase access to reliable resources for Spanish-speaking individuals focused on navigating services



Guiding Theory

Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory

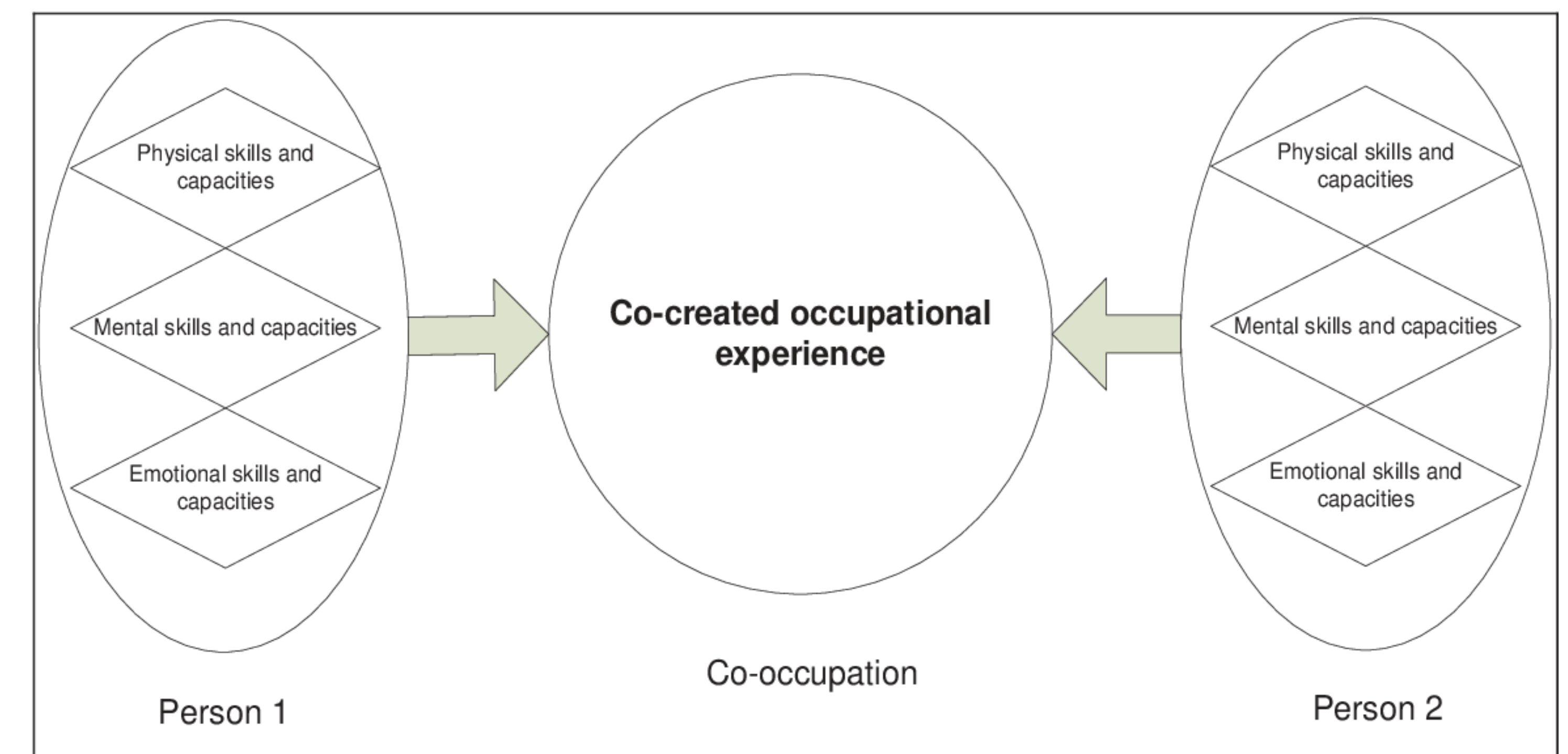
The dynamic relationship between a child and the environmental systems that influence their development



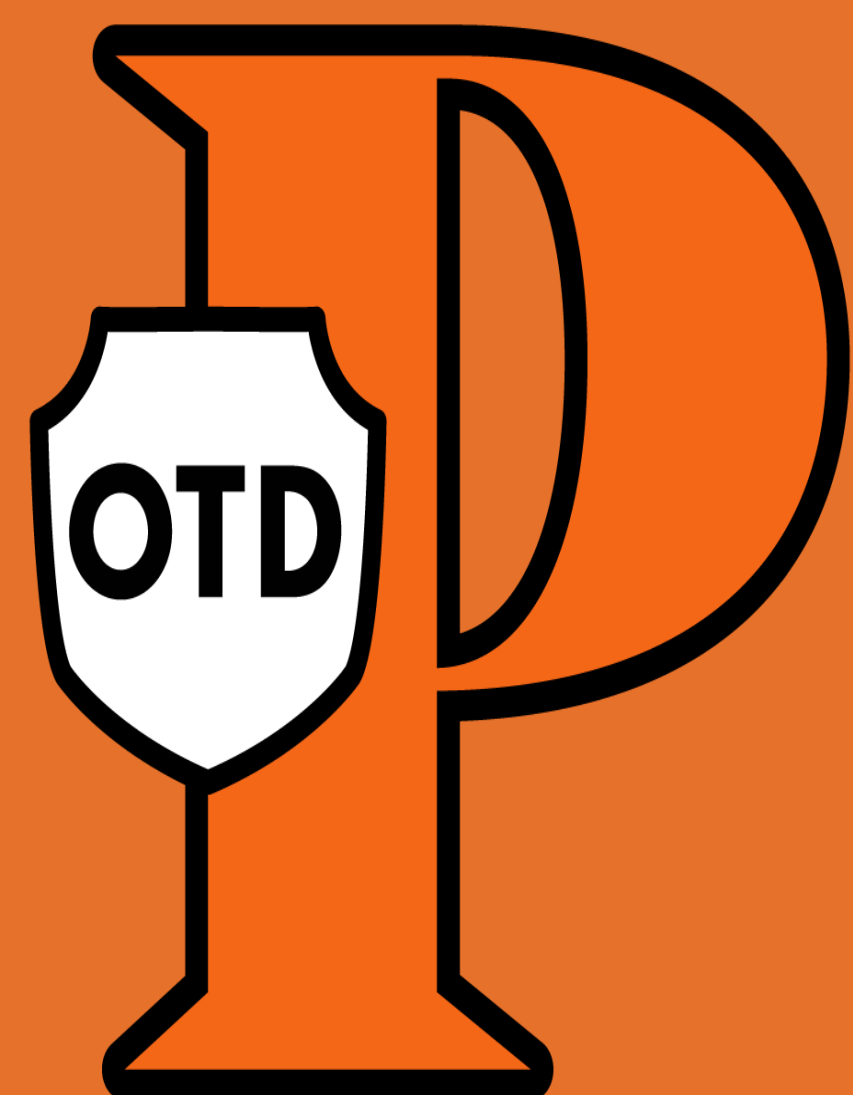
(Guy-Evans, 2024)

Model of Co-occupation

Shared physicality, emotionality, and intentionality in an occupation with another person



(Pickens & Barnekow, 2009; Doldge, 2012)



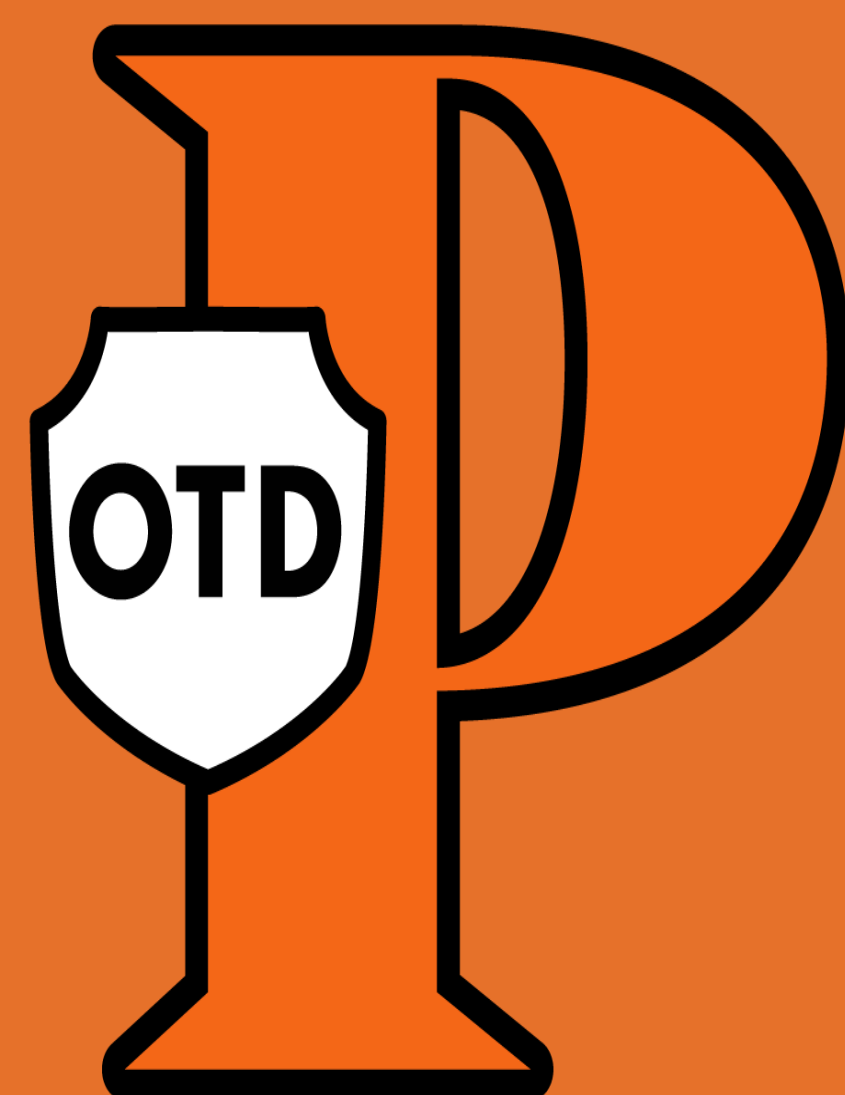
Literature Review

Parents experience higher levels of stress, impacted well-being and isolation during the diagnosis process

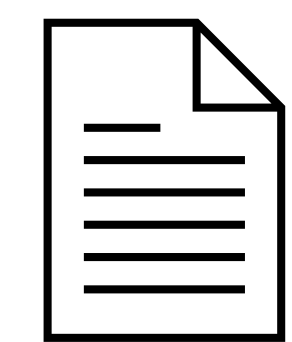
(Snijder et al., 2021; Ladarola et al., 2019; Boshoff, 2019; Kizildag et al., 2023; Hickey et al., 2022)

Quality of the information leaves room for improvement as translation is not always accurate or understandable and the English versions contain too much medical jargon to understand

(Zuckerman et al., 2014; Anderberg & South, 2021)

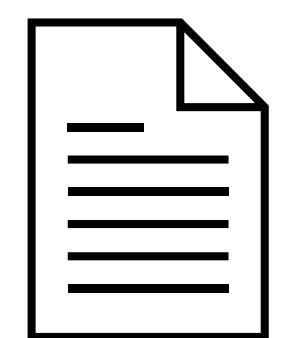


Needs Assessment



Semi-structured/informal interviews:

Director of occupational therapy
Director of pediatrics

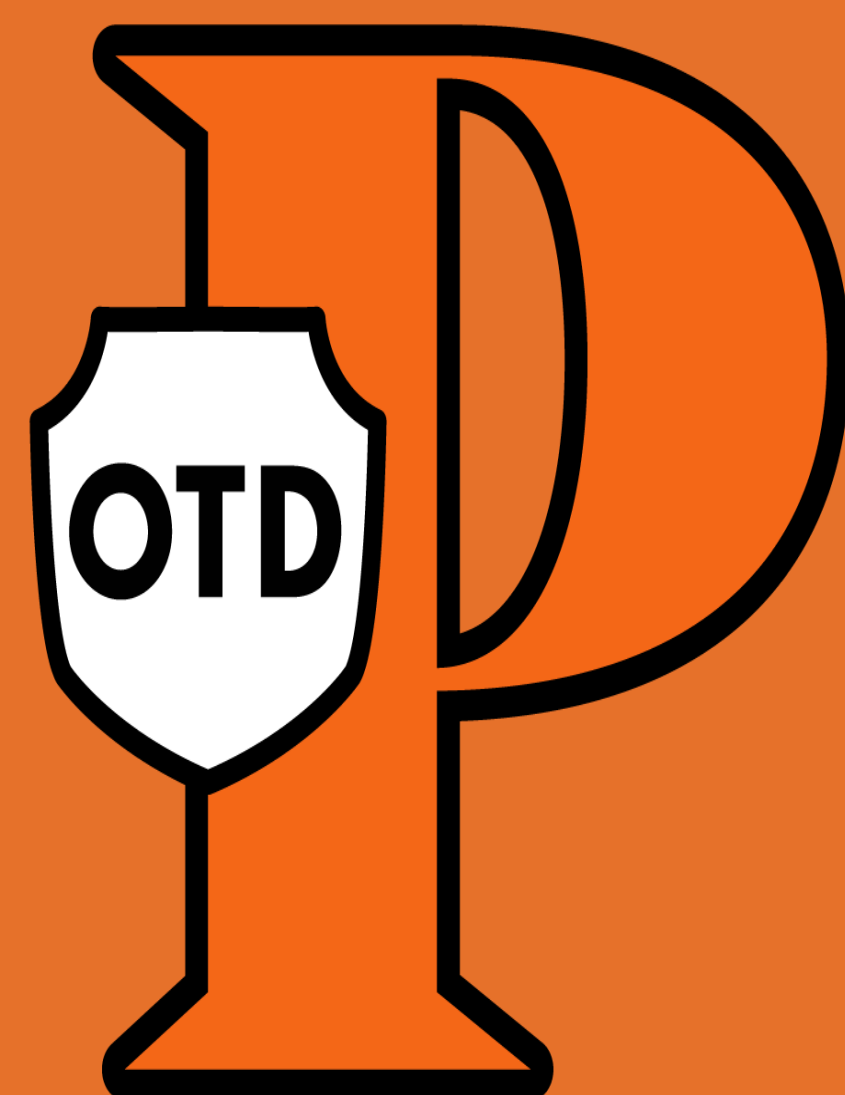


Anonymous staff survey:

14 participants

Gaps identified

- Up-to date educational resources
- Culturally competent educational materials
- Increased awareness of community resources
- Educational resources to be created for Easter Seals website

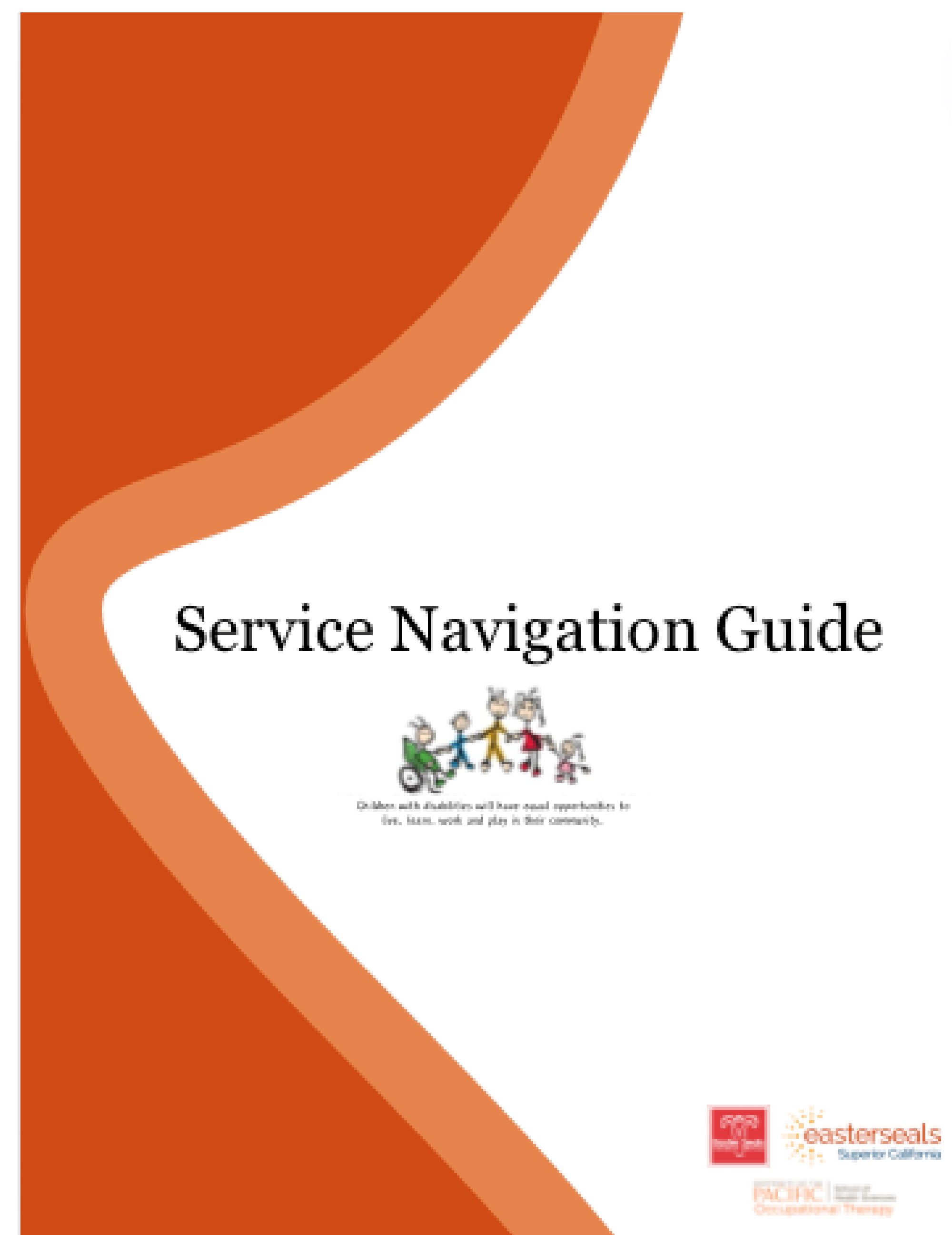


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Outcomes

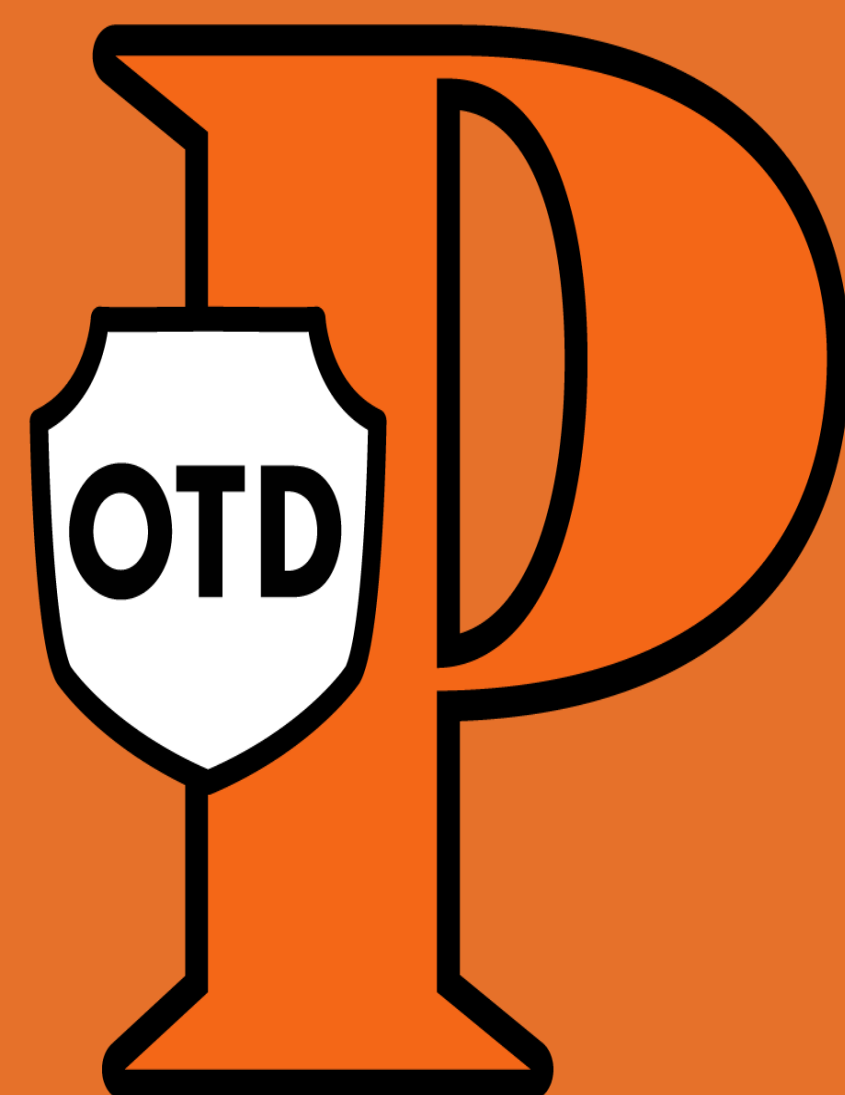
Service Navigation Guide



10-page guide to different types of services

Topics included

- What is Occupational Therapy
- What is Physical Therapy
- What is Speech and Language Pathology
- What is a Child Developmental Specialist
- Transition to School

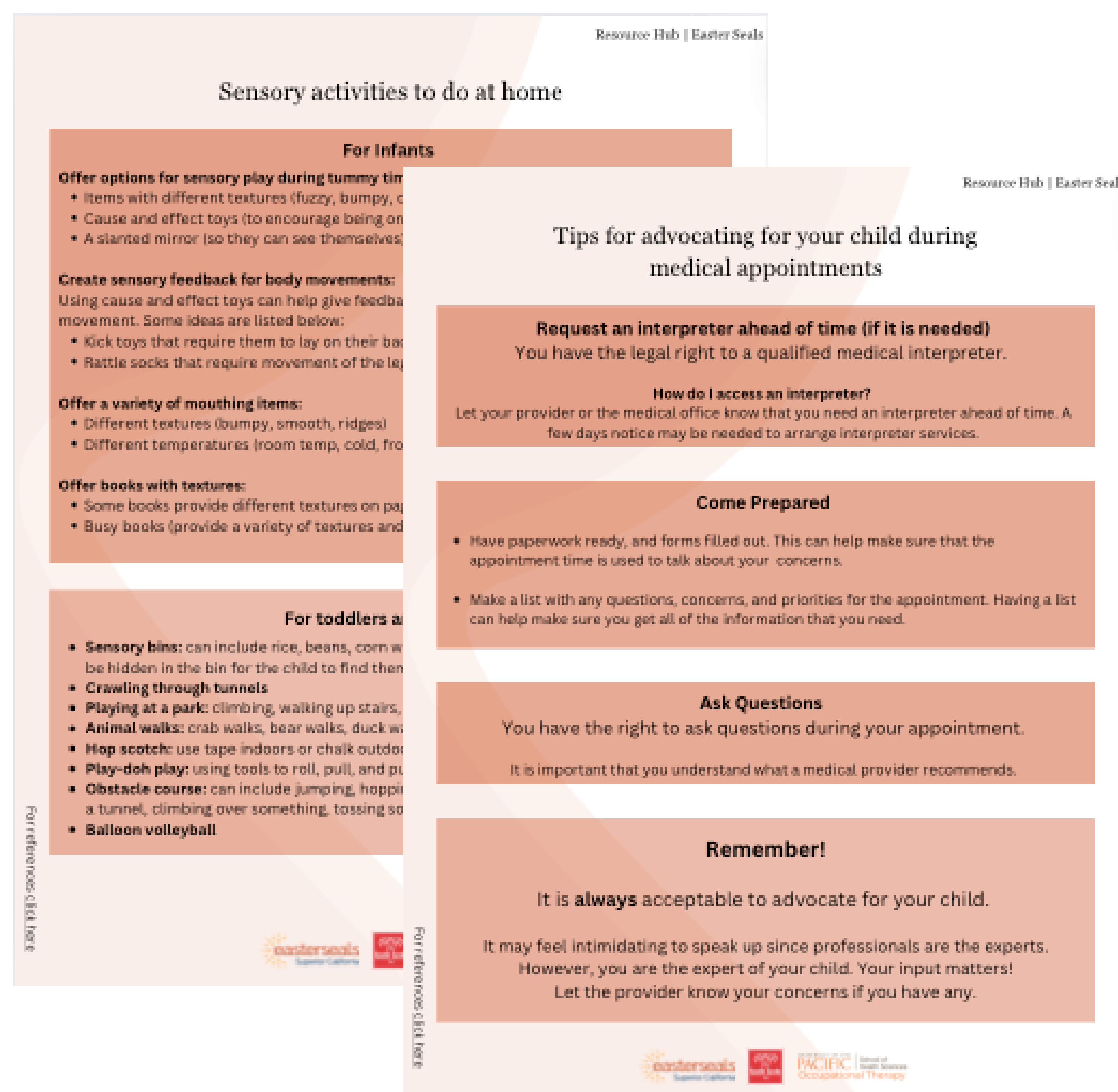


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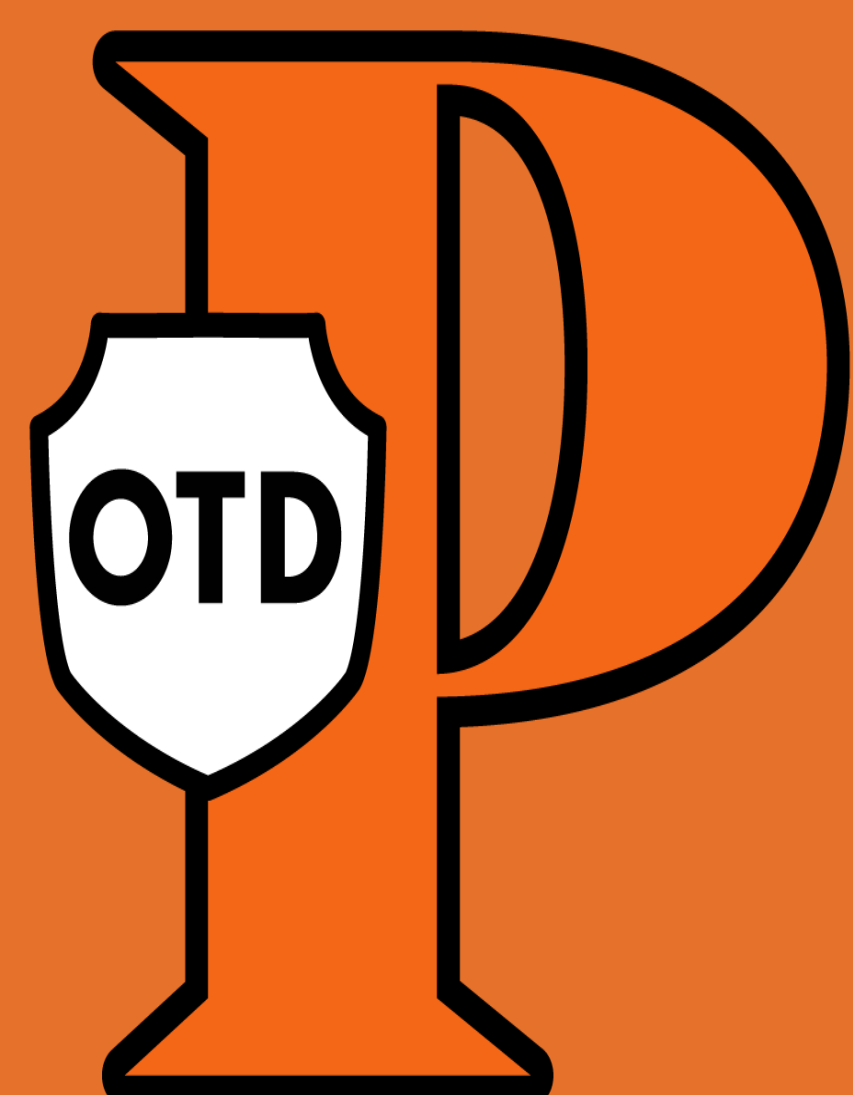
Resource Hub



A collection of documents ranging from one to three pages

A database for community resources

- Additional Services Outside of Easter Seals
- Tips for Advocacy
- Sensory Activities to do at Home
- Fine Motor Activities to do at Home
- Parent Support Groups
- Community Resources for Families

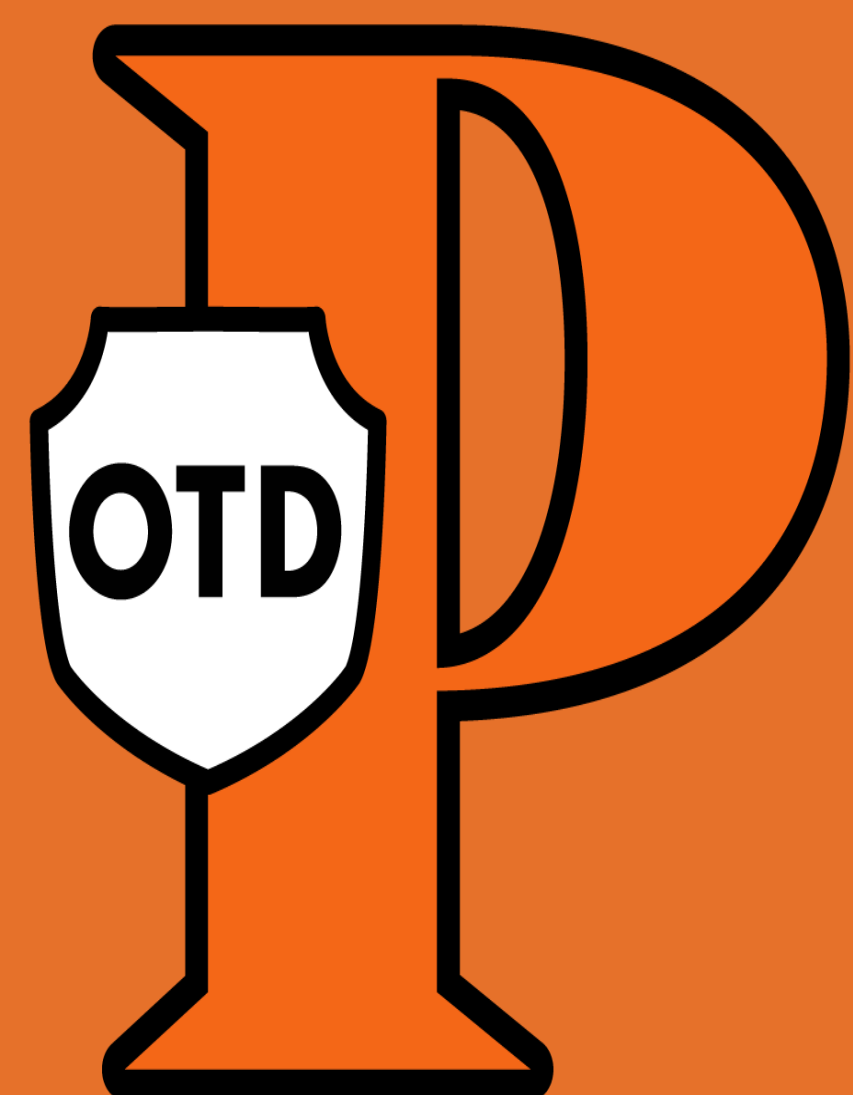
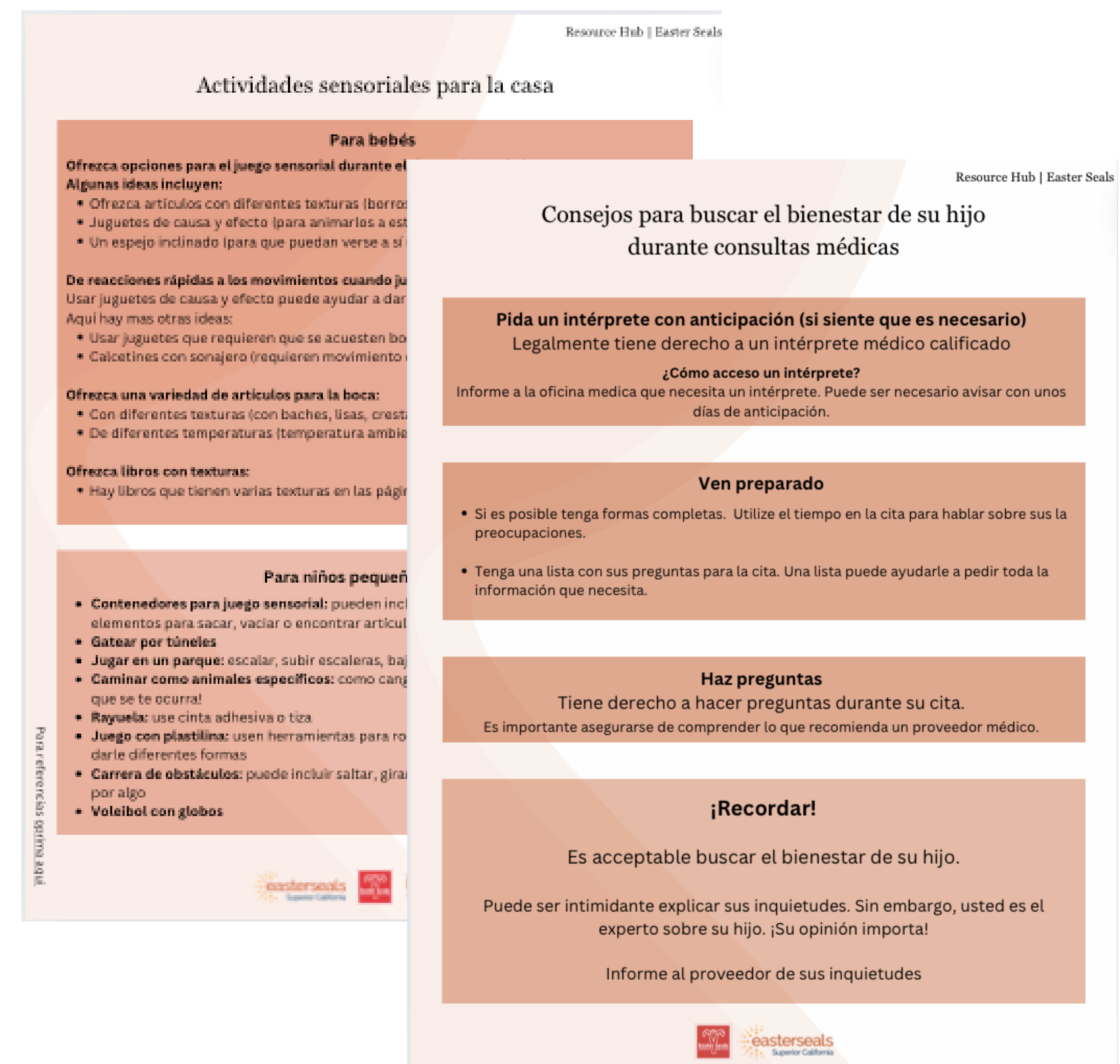


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Outcomes

Culturally Competent Resources

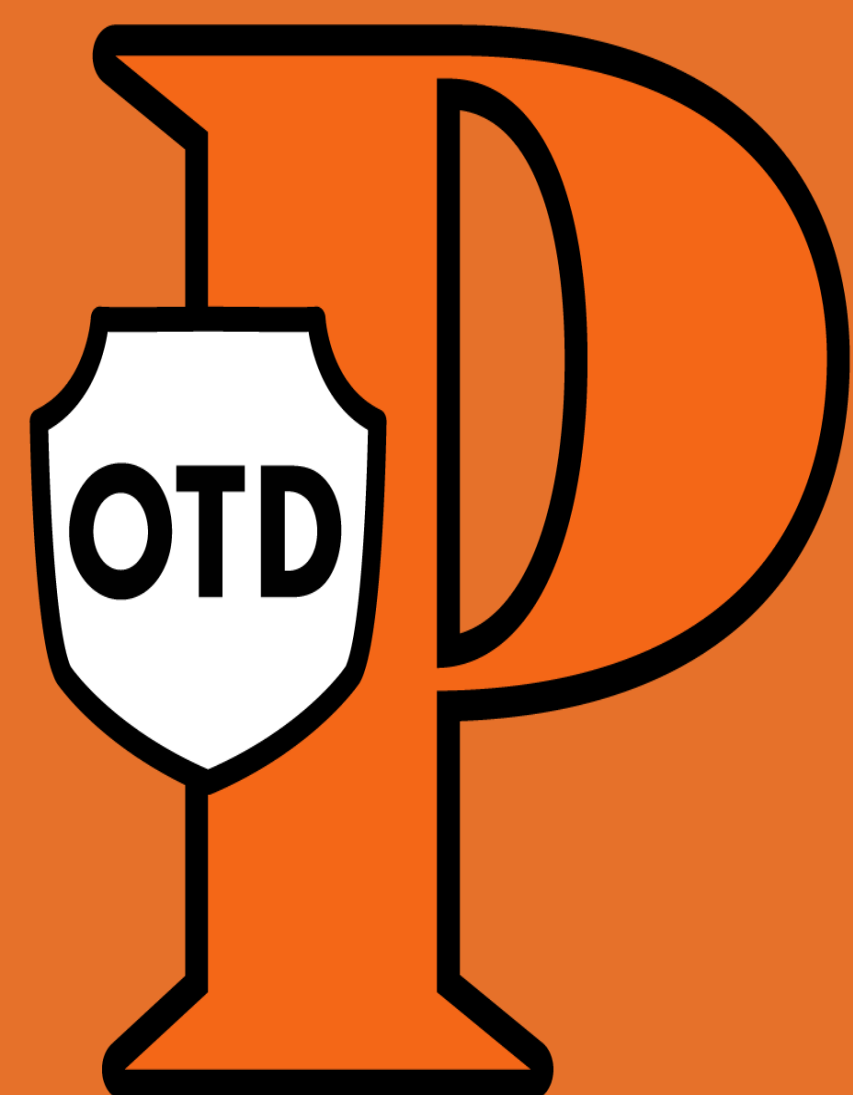


Discussion

The literature review and needs assessment validated the need for quality Spanish language resources regarding services

Increasing parent awareness of services may impact the likelihood that they access services

As more parents gain awareness and understanding of service benefits as well as atypical development, the cultural stigma may decrease leading to improved outcomes for children and parents



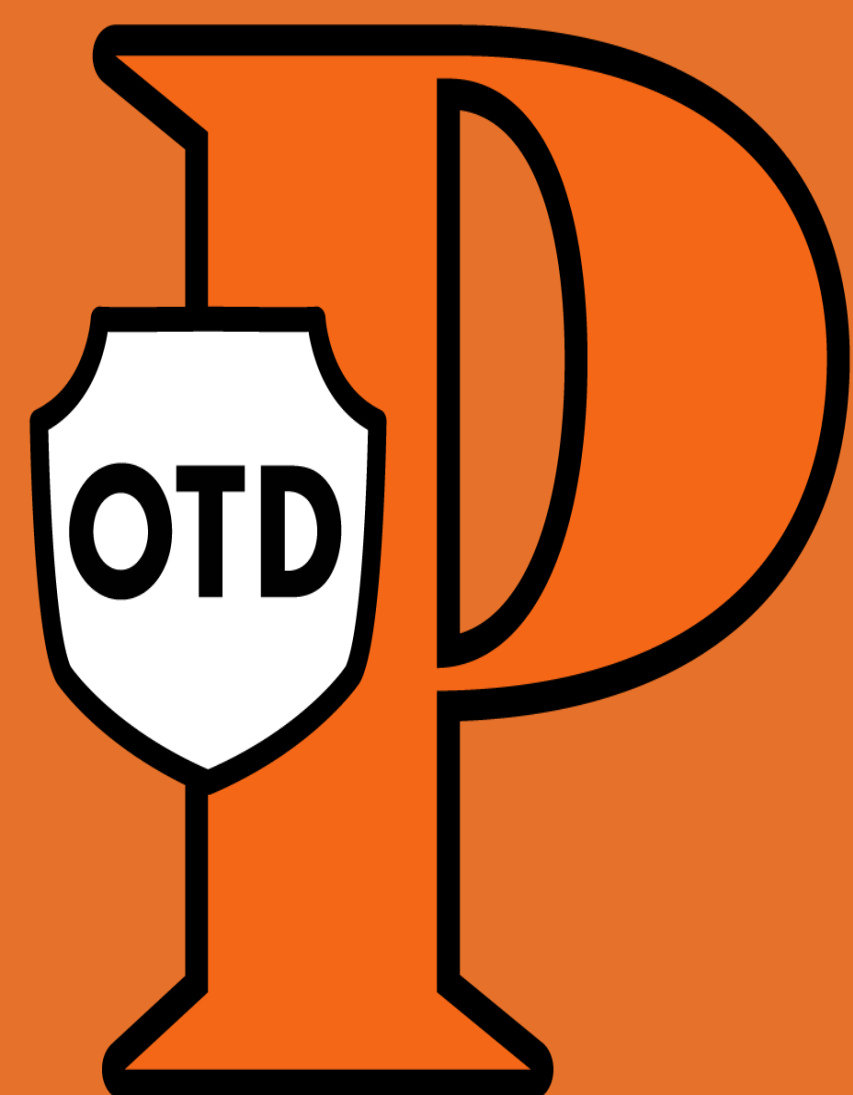
Impact

Impact on organization (Easter Seals)

- Educational resources for occupational therapists to utilize as parent education
- Foundation for development of website resources

Impact on community

- Increased access to quality bilingual resources
- Effort to decrease stigma within Hispanic community



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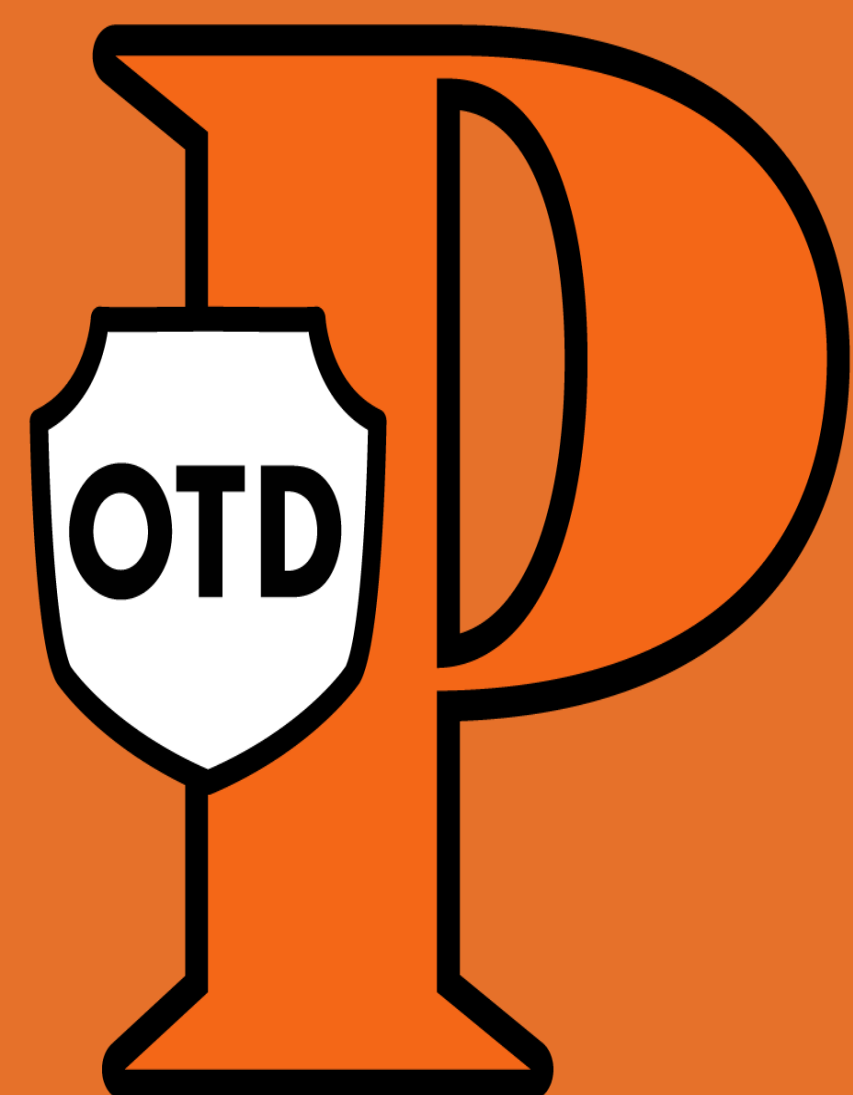
Future Implications

Opportunity for future capstone projects

- Easter Seals
- Regional Center

Informational workshops for parents

In-service or a continuing education course

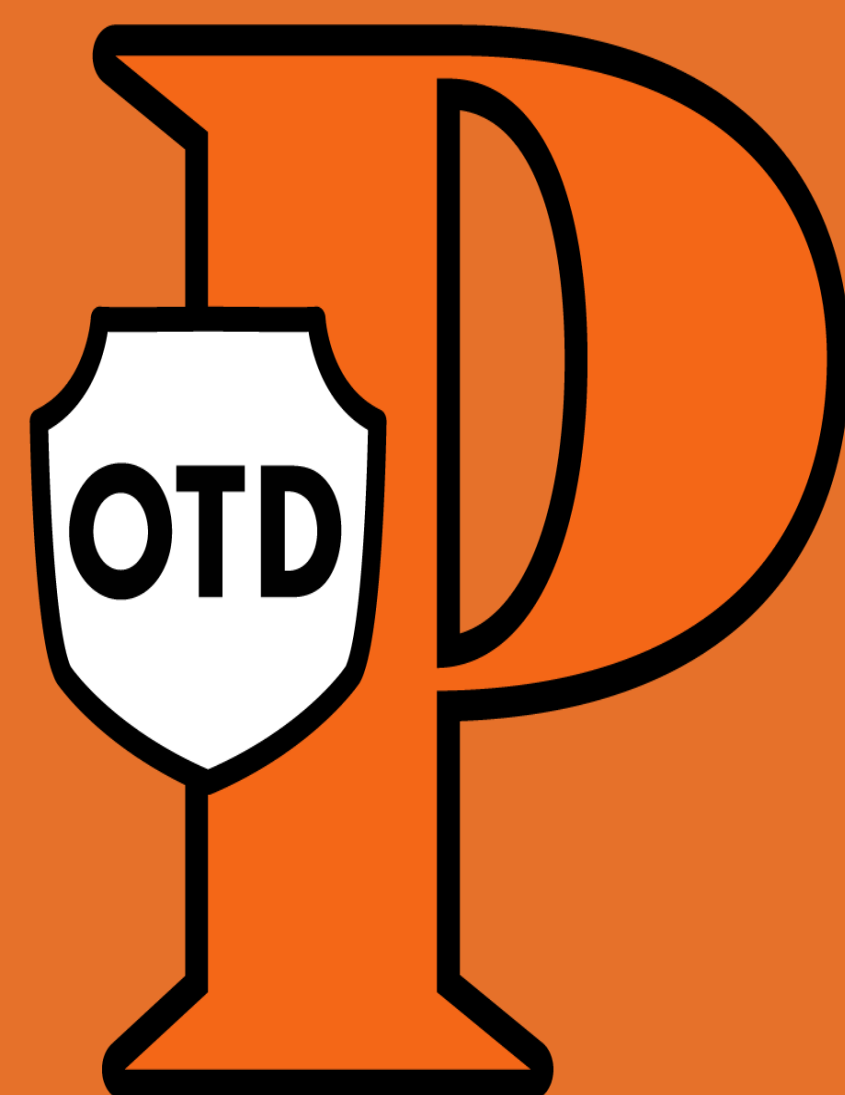


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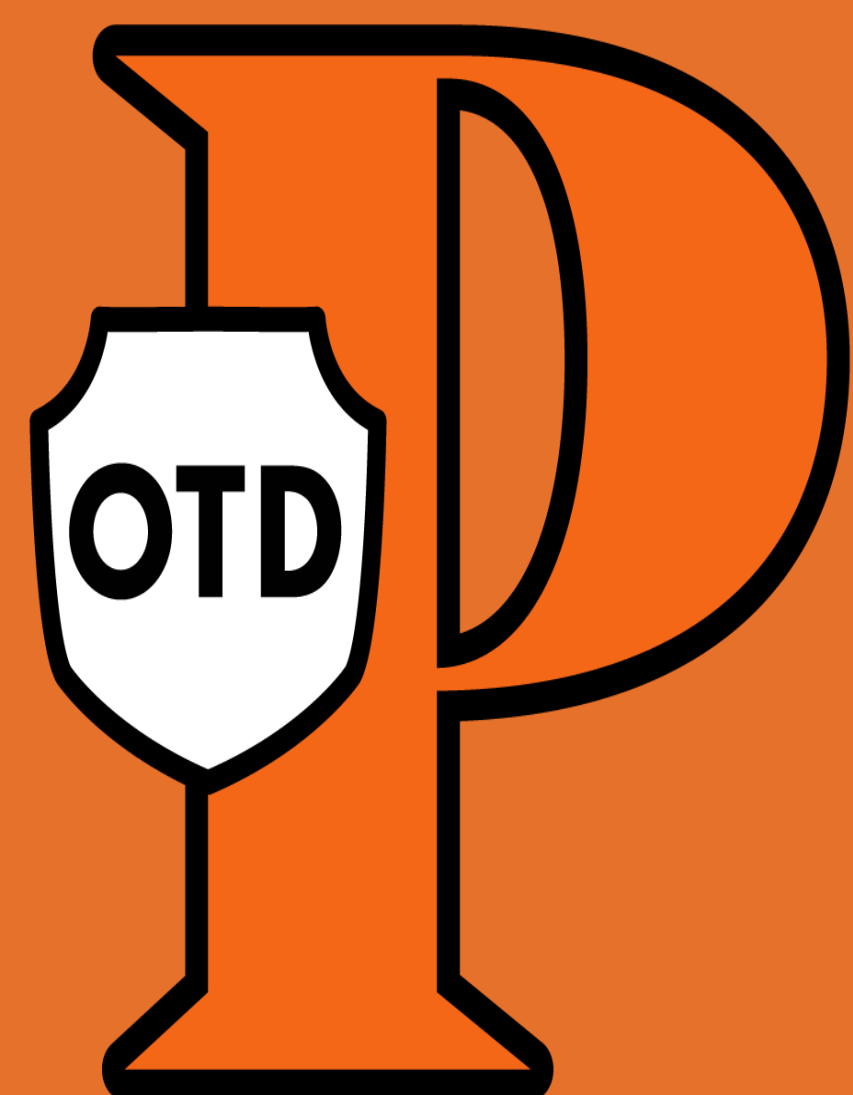
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