Research focus on the fPRC: The components and how they are related

Professor Christine Imms
CHILD Conference, Sweden November 2017

Origins of the fPRC
- Participation in childhood disability research
- WHO's International Classification of Functioning Disability and Health (ICF)
  - Participation: nature and extent of involvement in a life situation (or restriction)

ICF: classification system

ICF: Participation domain
- Activities and Participation are given in a single list
- The performance qualifier describes what an individual does in his or her current environment.
- Because the current environment includes a societal context, performance can also be understood as "involvement in a life situation"

ICF: Activities vs Participation
- It is difficult to distinguish between "Activities" and "Participation" on the basis of the domains in the Activities and Participation component. (p. 14, WHO, 2007).
  Choose:
  a) designate some domains as activities and others as participation, not allowing any overlap;
  b) same as (a) above, but allowing partial overlap;
  c) to designate all detailed domains as activities and the broad category headings as participation;
  d) to use all domains as both activities and participation.
Participation research

Since 2001, research has mapped participation patterns and barriers & facilitators

Longitudinal study 2006-2015

Systematic reviews of current evidence

Embedded qualitative research

Pilot intervention studies

Participation in childhood disability research

• Are we making a difference?

The effect of interventions aimed at improving participation outcomes for children with disabilities: a systematic review

2015

7 RCTs

Build skills & functions Coaching Group & Individual Goal focused

3 showed effect: increased engagement, school attendance, recreational diversity

Participation in childhood disability research

• What do intervention researchers mean by ‘participation’ when they study it?

Activity competence

Sense of self

Preferences

Environment

Attendance

Involvement

Family of participation related constructs

Most common outcome measured was activity competence

Environment: Availability; Accessibility; Affordability; Accommodating; Acceptability

Participation definition

• Participation is involvement in a life situation (WHO, 2001) that has two essential elements: attendance and involvement (Imms et al, 2016)

• Attendance is defined as ‘being there’
  • Measured as frequency of attending, and/or the range or diversity of activities in which an individual takes part.

• Involvement is defined as the experience of participation while attending
  • Including elements of engagement, persistence, perhaps social connection, and affect

Participation in childhood disability research (Imms et al 2016)

Family of participation related constructs

Environment

Involvement

Activity competence

Sense of self

Preferences

Attendance

Environment: Availability; Accessibility; Affordability; Accommodating; Acceptability

2016

4 defined participation

6 Themed mapped to measures

25 intervention studies

Thematic language analysis (Imms et al 2016)

Family of participation related constructs

Most common outcome measured was activity competence

Environment: Availability; Accessibility; Affordability; Accommodating; Acceptability

Family of Participation Related Constructs (FPRC)

Participation, both a means and an end: a conceptual analysis of processes and outcomes in childhood disability

2017

Purpose:

• To use current knowledge to examine and further develop the theoretical framework initially proposed in the SR

• To enhance conceptual clarity for research and practice when considering participation as both a ‘means’ and an ‘ends’
Family of Participation Related Constructs (fPRC)

**Broad objective**
physical and social structures in which we live

---

**Environment**

Perceived environment
Maxwell, Alves, & Granlund 2012

---

**Environment & context**

Distinguishing environment from context:
Batorowicz, King et al, 2015

---

**Participation**

---

**Attendance**

...being there

---

**Involvement**

Responsiveness while attending
engagement, persistence, affect, perhaps social connection...
Within person factors

...interests or activities that hold meaning or are valued

Self regulation

Transactions / processes

Participation ↔ Activity Competence

Transactions / processes

Participation ↔ Sense of self

Transactions / processes

Participation ↔ Preferences

Intra-personal processes
Transactions / Processes
Individual in the environment

- Participation attendance and/or involvement
- Influenced by
  - Environment
  - Context
  - Intra-personal
  - Activity competence
  - Sense of self
  - Preferences
  - Body function/structure

Participation as outcome

- Participation attendance and/or involvement
- Influenced by
  - Environment
  - Context
  - Intra-personal
  - Activity competence
  - Sense of self
  - Preferences
  - Body function/structure

Participation as process

- Participation attendance and/or involvement
- Influences
  - Activity competence
  - Sense of self
  - Preferences
  - Body functions
  - Context
  - Environment

Participation: means and end

- What this framework says about change
  - Language (verbs) & bidirectional arrows
  - Transactional processes among the domains
  - Participation is separated from the life situation conceptually

Transactional processes

Theoretical tenets of life course change
- Transactional processes involving exchanges of person and context over time lead to adaptive outcomes
- Changing opportunity structures and experiences affect adaptive development
- There are numerous pathways to positive developmental outcomes
- There are periods of differential sensitivity of person-environment relations

Family of Participation Related Constructs

- The ‘blobs’ are not as important as the arrows…
- Understanding the transaction between the domains and supporting processes is important
  - this is where important knowledge resides about how/what changes occur over time, as well as the entry points for intervention

Images used with permission

King, Imms, Stewart, Freeman, Nguyen, (2017) Disabil & Rehab
Thank you

References


