

Occupational Justice in Early Reading: A Manual for Adapting Books for Children with Disabilities

Kayleen Claxton, MPH OTD/s

Hawai'i Pacific University, Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program, Honolulu, Hawai'i

Introduction

Research suggests that reading aloud regularly gives children a 'head start in life' leading to higher reading, math and cognitive skills (de Rijke, V. (2020). Research has also shown that typical children's engagement in shared home-reading activities has been shown to promote their reading attainment, reading rate, and comprehension (Walker et al., 2022). Go Baby Go Oregon aims to bridge the gap between commercially available books and adapted books by modifying books to meet the needs of children with disabilities. By adapting books, we can include children with disabilities and help them engage in the occupation of reading. The goal of modified books is to increase participation and engagement in early literacy skills for children with limited mobility and/or visual difficulties (*GoBabyGo Oregon*, n.d.).

Project Description

This project included creating a supply list for a 40-book adaptation event. This supply list needed to be detailed with all the needed supplies to not only adapt 40 books, but to engage up to 40 volunteers. The supplies listed can be used for any books that are chosen based on theme or patient request.

Also included in this project was a 5-minute video presentation for five different books. This presentation explained the mission of Go Baby Go Oregon, gave context to the importance of book adaptations, and served as a guide on how to correctly adapt books for disabled children.

Purpose/Aims

To implement time-saving measures for book adaptation events by creating standardized supply lists and video instructions for book adaptations.

To educate volunteers on the reasons, methods, and importance of adapting a book for children with disabilities.

To give volunteers foundational knowledge on the "why" of book adaptations.

Instruct volunteers on how to create an adaptation that is therapeutically appropriate and safe for disabled children.

To minimize the waste of materials used to create a completed therapeutic book adaptation.

For Go Baby Go to receive books that do not need to be corrected or cleaned up before gifting to children.

Results/Outcomes



Book Adaptation Supply List



Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?

References



Methods

A needs assessment was conducted to see what the needs of the organization are.

It was determined through the needs assessment that the book adaptation program at Go baby Go Oregon needed a standardized supply list for book adaptation events and an instructional video for adapting books.

A supply list was created, with ordering links, to support a 40-book adaptation event.

Five common books were chosen as examples for the instructional video that included literary styles from simple to complex. The books included a range of people, cultures, languages, and tempos.

A video presentation for each book was created and can be sent to volunteers before events to help create a foundation of understanding.

Discussion

This project is intended to streamline the book adaptation program at Go Baby Go Oregon. Progress was made in creating an easy to disseminate supply list for various organizations who volunteer to adapt books. Titles of books can be changed based on needs, however the supplies listed will be standard for any adaptation event.

Creating a video guide will serve to offer an introduction to Go Baby Go Oregon, its mission, purpose, and vision. This will also aim to save time during book adaptation events, as the video can be sent to volunteers ahead of events.

The limitation of this project was time. Given opportunities to use both the supply list and the instructional video, an assessment can be done on the effectiveness of these tools. It is also worth noting that hosting a build and receiving adapted books back to Go Baby Go Oregon would also serve as an assessment tool for effectiveness.