

## Development of a Community Focused Resource to Facilitate Children's Participation after Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

Margaret Jones, Professor Clare Hocking & Professor Kathryn McPherson  
Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand

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Contact: margjone@aut.ac.nz

### Background

Children who sustain a TBI are at risk of poor participation outcomes. Findings from case study research in New Zealand confirmed that participation in shared occupations with their peers is important to children and their families, but others' lack of understanding and skill restricts them. Guided by those findings, a resource was developed which included strategies to enskill communities in fitting participation contexts to children's abilities and needs, and in crafting opportunities for their participation.

### Objective

To evaluate the conceptual basis and feasibility of a draft community-focused resource to foster participation of 9-12 year old children in shared occupations after TBI.

### Methodology & Method

Pragmatic action research (Greenwood & Levin, 2007). Twenty participants, including family members, teachers, caregivers, and rehabilitation staff took part in two rounds of focus groups and provided feedback. Data were analysed using a cognitive mapping strategy (Northcott, 1996).



**Ta Kupenga**

**Weaving a network of community connections**

### Results

Re-connecting with the community was likened to the traditional craft of net-weaving. Parents work with community members to gradually repair and extend their children's connections, helping them go out into the world.

### Discussion

The participatory study endorsed the resource and supported its evolution so that it reflects the context in which it will be applied. It provides evidence about how to enable children's participation in shared occupations, by establishing community connections.

### Conclusion

Feedback affirmed the utility of the resource across multiple contexts. It aims to weave a network of relationships through shared occupation in order to support participation.

### References

Greenwood, D. J., & Levin, M. (2007). *Introduction to action research: Social research for social change* (2nd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE.  
Northcott, N. (1996). Cognitive mapping: An approach to qualitative data analysis. *Journal of Research in Nursing*, 1, 456-464. doi:10.1177/174498719600100610

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