From Perception to Perspective: Assessing the Effectiveness of a Service Learning Project

Office of Academic Excellence and Assessment 2017 Faculty Development Grant Application

Abstract:

The purpose of this project is twofold: 1) to assess the Creighton Occupational Therapy (OT) student’s self-perception of their intervention skills and 2) assess the effectiveness of the fine motor intervention projects from the classroom teacher’s perspective. OTD 436 includes a service learning assignment called Fine Motor Workshops where students design and implement a fine motor skills intervention group in local preschool classrooms. To develop these workshops, students apply skills of activity analysis and intervention planning learned in their pediatric didactic coursework. Students will complete the Community Engagement Survey pre and post assignment to assess their perception of their preparedness for planning and conducting OT intervention. The classroom teacher’s perspective will be gleaned by conducting a focus interview lunch with the teacher(s) and classroom staff at each respective school. The results of the student’s perception and the teacher’s perspective will be utilized to refine the community service learning assignment, further strengthen ongoing community partnership, and foster hands-on experiences that will enhance student learning. Additionally, this method of assessment may prove an effective measure of student learning for all campus and distance students.

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