

# Child Mental Health Cheat Sheet

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# **Underpinning Principles**

- top down approach (focus on roles to facilitate participation, and in turn build skills)
- strengths based practice
- · routines based practice
- neurodiversity affirming principles - strategies, tools, accomodations, focusing on a mix of environment and occupation change rather than occupation alone.

## Intervention Planning

Preperation (establish goals with child and caregiver, ascertain buy-in)

Acquisition (implement strategies and apply to goals)

Verification (generalisation and reinforce)

Brofenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory

# **Assessment Process**

- · occupational profile
- observation/reporting from caregivers

## formal assessments

# Vineland Adaptive Behaviour

Scales (semi structured interview or questionnaire assessing daily living skills, communication, socialization, and motor skills of children aged 0-12 years to evaluate their adaptive functioning)

**Sensory Profile** (Infant/Todd-ler/Child)

## Strengths and Difficulties

Questionaire brief behavioral screening tool used to assess the emotional and behavioral wellbeing of children and adolescents aged 2 to 17 years. It measures five domains: emotional symptoms, conduct problems, hyperactivity/inattention, peer relationship problems, and prosocial behaviour.

#### Interventions

## Joint Attention

- Remove all toys, use every day objects
- Add a sensory layer e.g. noises, touch, movement
- Sprinkle 'no talking dust'
- Animated facial expressions and big gestures
- Add a level of anticipation to encourage joint attention
- Repetition and extending

# Play Skills

- Facilitate sense of power, working with passions and enabling control
- Join in with current pretend play and extend
- Look for opportunities to develop specific play skills °
  Object substitution ° Play script ° Social ° Create problems in advance to facilitate social problem solving



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