

The occupational therapy needs for teachers at elementary school in Japan

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Objectives

In Japan, a special needs educational system started newly in 2007. The occupational therapists who visit the school in Japan are less than the United States school system. As for working at the school system, small number of occupational therapists work in Japan. However, the number of occupational therapists has increased little by little in Japan while using the chance of this system. In this study, the Japanese teachers were investigated to search for needs of occupational therapy at school system.

Methods

The occupational therapist visited special class in a school. The occupational therapists requested the questionnaire survey from the teachers. The teachers have worked with the occupational therapists in the past. The object was 51 teachers of special classes of public elementary school in Kanagawa Prefecture in Japan.

Results

The questionnaires were 39 answers(76.5%). The content of the intervention of the occupational therapists who are visiting the school is shown below. Individual therapy by the occupational therapists for children whom teacher selected(89.3%), making of teaching material(35.7%), group teaching(32.1%), visit to class(32.1%), lecture in study association for teachers(28.6%), lecture in parents' association(17.9%), advices of individual teaching planning(14.3%). This question "What advice do you want? ", the answers were balance movement(90.0%), sensory/perception(76.7%), posture (76.7%), skills at school life(60.0%), cognition(43.3%) and emotion(33.3%), etc. It were answers of the questionnaire of "very useful(82.0%)" and "a little useful(18.0%)" about advice from the occupational therapists. Details of advice from the occupational therapists were physical education(78.6%), JIRITSU-KATSUDO(64.3%), and individual teaching planning(57.1%), etc. The teachers and parents also were participating at occupational therapy's session.

Conclusions

The needs of the individual therapy were high from the questionnaire. The occupational therapist's advice was used for contents of physical education and JIRITSU-KATSUDO. In addition, the advice of the individual teaching planning and making of teaching tools were demanded from the teachers for the occupational therapists. It was suggested that needs for the occupational therapy from the teachers increase in school system in Japan.