

Candler Line of Research

Evidence based practice requires the publication of formal large scale studies yet the populations served by occupational therapists and the individualized interpersonal nature of occupational therapy intervention does not always lend itself to the formal randomized designs that support generalized knowledge. In response, the concept of practice based evidence has emerged. Practice based evidence is grounded in conscientious and recorded measurement and intervention evaluation. Emphasis is on simple research designs that can be conducted in tandem with client intervention.

Dr. Candler's research focus is on the efficacy of occupational therapy interventions and techniques used primarily in pediatric and public school practice. Through her own inquiry, work with thesis projects and as a partner with entrepreneurial clinicians Dr. Candler has explored a wide range of interventions including summer camp experience, oral motor rhymes and games, use of video to learn sign and shape drawing, noise canceling headphones, error based instruction for handwriting, and grip efficiencies. Dr. Candler has a keen interest in the day to day strategies utilized by occupational therapists and ensuring best practice.

Dr. Candler's work offers study and application of practice based evidence research techniques. This approach articulates with the emphasis of the occupational therapy research agenda published by AOTF/AOTA on intervention, specifically to evaluate the effectiveness of occupational therapy interventions under conditions of usual care. Students following Dr. Candler's line of research initially contribute to ongoing projects, engaging in planning, data collection, and analysis. With experience, students are expected to conduct independent projects within the practice based evidence paradigm. From this work development of expertise within a specific intervention practice area will be supported, culminating in a comprehensive inquiry which will contribute meaningful generalized evidence to the profession.