

Research- Baxter

Research Focus

My research comes from my keen interest in neuroscience and occupation based interventions and the impact we as therapists can have on the person and their abilities using occupation-based, neurologically sound principles. More specifically, my work has been in motor control and the physiological and contextual factors that contribute to motor control. Work needs to continue in the areas of the evaluations and interventions used in motor control and rehabilitation. I have worked with both adults and children in this area. Another area of interest in neuroscience is the use of creativity. This idea is in the infant stages, but issues of interest include the use of creative activities in the therapeutic process and the qualities of therapists that would be considered creative.

Current Projects

These are projects that I have been working on with my MOT students. There is room for growth in each area.

- Development and validation of a functional test for sitting balance
- Exploration of postural control issues in children with particular focus on children with brachial plexus injury or autism
- Evaluate use of creative activities in various forms for increasing function and participation as well as reducing stress.

Potential opportunities for doctoral students

- Refinement and validation of test for sitting balance with a variety of populations and circumstances.
- What are the factors that contribute to postural control or lack of in children across diagnoses and ages? How do difficulties or variations in postural control affect participation in daily occupations? Compare performance on cognitive, physical, psychological, and quality of life measures to identify factors affecting participation.
- Identify what (if any) creative activities therapists are using. Evaluate the outcomes of therapeutic use of creative activities in patient and non-patient groups and across the life span.