Clinicians’ Perspectives on the Permobil Explorer Mini

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Clinicians’ Perspectives on the Permobil Explorer Mini

**Searcy Fox OTD/S**

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Teresa Plummer PhD, OTR/L, ATP, CAPS, CEAS

Expert Mentor: Jennith Bernstein PT, DPT, ATP/SMS

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**Permobil Inc.**

Mission: “Everyone person with a disability has the right to have his or her needs compensated as far as possible by aids with the same technical standard as those we all use in our everyday lives.”

Permobil Background: “Permobil founder Dr. Per Uddén believed that helping people achieve the greatest level of independence is a basic human right and, for over 50 years, Permobil has held fast to that belief. Permobil is a global leader in advanced rehabilitation technology, passionate about better understanding our users’ needs and improving their quality of life. Today, those solutions include power wheelchairs, seating and positioning products, power assist, and manual wheelchairs.”

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**Capstone Goals**

1. Work with clinicians to gain knowledge about children with PM needs through interviews and surveys
2. Contribute to literature analysis for the Delphi Study on the Explorer Mini
3. Collaborate with peers to coalesce research findings
4. Contribute to a research study on clinician perspectives of the Explorer Mini
5. Develop educational materials for clinicians and caregivers regarding the Explorer Mini

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**References available upon request**

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<th>Identified Agency Needs</th>
<th>Outcomes of Capstone Project</th>
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| . Education for clinicians on the Explorer Mini | ● Created a pocket guide for clinicians
| . Education for caregivers on the Explorer Mini | ● Created a Frequently Asked Questions document about the Explorer Mini
| . Gaining insight on Clinician Perspectives on the Explorer Mini | ● Gaining insight of lived experience/perspectives from clinicians using the Explorer Mini through surveys and interviews
| . Education for Permobil on the Explorer Mini | ● Drafted a publishable article “Clinicians’ Perspectives on the Explorer Mini” to Physical and Occupational Therapy in Pediatrics
| | ● Synthesized literature to create an evidence-based practice supporting evidence document for Delphi study
| | ● Created and designed educational materials for caregivers and clinicians for the purpose and use of the Explorer Mini
| | ● Created and designed educational material for Permobil Inc. for videography
| | ● Researched various developmental skills and relevant literature to determine appropriate information

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**Explorer Mini/Pediatric Power Mobility**

The Explorer Mini is a Food and Drug Administration (FDA) cleared, class II medical device designed with the aim of bridging the gap between mobility and developmental milestones for children 12-36 months of age. (Permobil, 2020)

**Abstract:**

**Aim:** The purpose of this study was to examine how clinicians perceived the use of the Permobil Explorer Mini with children ages 12-36 months.

**Methods:** This study utilized a mixed-methods approach using pre- and post-surveys and interviews. Ten clinicians currently using the Explorer Mini completed the pre-survey. Of the 10 participants, 6 agreed to participate in an interview conducted via Zoom®. Six weeks after the pre-survey was sent out, all participants were asked to complete the post-survey. Of the initial 10, 7 participants completed the post-survey.

**Results:** Thematic and frequency analysis revealed 4 themes: 1) Perspectives on Clinical Reasoning 2) Perspectives on Frequency and Dosage 3) Perspectives on Environmental Exploration 4) Perspectives on Goals and Outcomes.

**Conclusion:** All participants indicated that they recommend the Explorer Mini for mobility and environmental exploration. Discrepancies remain regarding the dosage and frequency of the device and the appropriate age of implementation. Most clinicians determine readiness for the device using their clinical reasoning, rather than age or assessment tool.

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**Professional Development**

- Facilitated virtual interviews with clinicians to learn more about their perspectives on the Explorer Mini
- Provided mentorship to 2nd year OTD students completing their research project
- Completed the International Society of Wheelchair Professionals Basic Level Certification
- Attended 3 webinars to learn more about the Explorer Mini

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- I would like to thank my Expert Mentor, Jennith Bernstein of Permobil, for providing me with a wealth of knowledge in regards to not only the Explorer Mini but also professional development as a future clinician.
- I would also like to thank my Faculty Mentor, Dr. Teresa Plummer, for her never ending support and encouragement during my capstone project. I would also like to thank her for allowing me to further myself in my professional and personal development. She has provided me with an immense amount of knowledge in relation to the pediatric power mobility, the Explorer Mini, and advanced research skills.
- I would like to thank Karin Leire, Ann-Marie Engdahl and Permobil for your support and knowledge throughout this project.
- Thank you Dr. Mary Dietrich for your skilled analyze of our data and providing us with knowledge and support to better understand statistical analysis.