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Clinicians' Perspectives on the Permobil Explorer Mini

Lilly O'Toole OTD/S

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



Permobil Inc.

Mission:

"Every 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."



Goals of Capstone

- Work with clinicians to gain knowledge about children with power mobility through interviews and surveys
- Contribute to literature analysis to Delphi Study for Explorer Mini
- Collaborate with peers to coalesce research findings
- Contribute to a research study on clinician perspectives of the Explorer Mini
- Develop educational materials for clinicians and caregivers regarding the Explorer Mini

<u>Identified Agency Needs</u>	<u>Outcomes of Capstone</u>
• Education for clinicians on the Explorer Mini	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created a pocket guide for clinicians • Created a Frequently Asked Questions for Clinicians document about the Explorer Mini
• Education for caregivers on the Explorer Mini	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created a template for a Facebook reference space with questions and discussion for Permobil • Create a step-by-step guide for caregivers to obtain and fund an Explorer Mini
• Gaining insight on Clinician Perspectives on the Explorer Mini	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaining insight to lived experience/perspectives from clinicians using the Explorer Mini through surveys and interviews • 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
• Identify appropriate outcome measures to assess and measure progress for the Explorer Mini	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asked clinicians about measures they currently use to assess and measure progress for the Explorer Mini during surveys and interviews • Researched appropriate objective outcome measures used for pediatric power mobility • Developed a pros/cons list of objective assessments that may be appropriate for the Explorer Mini

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.

Professional Development

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



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