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### Enhancing Participation in Play through Staff Training at We Rock the Spectrum

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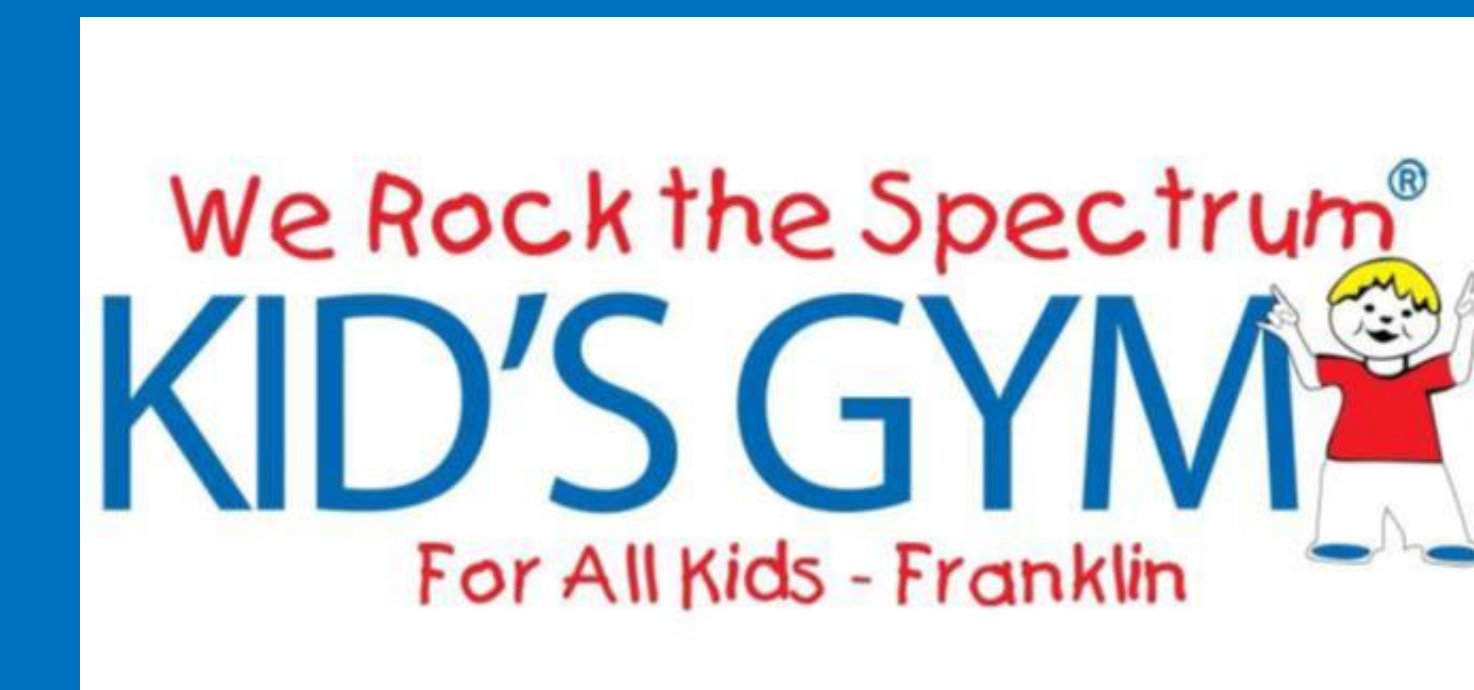
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# Enhancing Participation in Play through Staff Training at We Rock the Spectrum

Megan Poppens, OTD/S

Belmont University, School of Occupational Therapy  
Expert Mentor: Andrea Hughie, MSN, RN, NEA-BC  
Faculty Mentor: Camille Turner, EdD, MSOT, OTR/L



## Agency Description

We Rock the Spectrum (WRTS) is an inclusive kid's gym in Franklin, TN. It is a place for children of all abilities to play and grow together while using uniquely designed sensory equipment to ensure safety and fun!

## Mission & Vision

**Mission:** We Rock the Spectrum creates an inclusive, sensory-safe play environment for children. They do this by accepting children of ALL abilities, utilizing the most effective sensory-safe equipment, and designing programs for neurological development. WRTS supports Play with A Purpose™.

**Vision:** WRTS believes in providing a place where all families and children feel welcome and accepted for who they are. Regardless of continent, culture, or class, their inclusive movement brings resources and a safe haven to communities worldwide.

## Needs of the Agency

Compile and create evidence-based resources for caregivers

Educate staff about interacting with children with disabilities to promote inclusion

Train staff about addressing the needs of children in a group setting

## Capstone Outcomes

- Created a comprehensive staff training manual to expand staff knowledge and comfort level when working with children at WRTS
- Completed analysis of the gym space to maximize usability, provide suggestions for modifications, and strategies to improve participation
- Provided live and virtual educational sessions for current and future staff
- Planned and executed crafts and activities targeting fine motor control and sensory regulation
- Provided one-on-one care and facilitated activities for Spring Break camp
- Supervised and facilitated educational opportunities for level 1 occupational therapy students

## Deliverables

Staff Training Manual

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## Goals of Capstone

Site:

- Explore the needs of children, caregivers, and staff at WRTS
- Collaborate with WRTS owner for program development
- Investigate topics relevant to WRTS to include in staff training manual

Personal:

- Facilitate participation for all children
- Create accessible and sustainable materials for WRTS staff and caregivers

## Acknowledgements

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- My expert mentor, Andrea Hughie, for her support, encouragement, and sharing her knowledge for pediatrics and program development with me.
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References available upon request.