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The Impact of Parent and Caregiver Perceptions of Inclusivity Regarding the Concepts of Inclusive Playgrounds

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The Impact of Parent and Caregiver Perceptions of Inclusivity Regarding the Concepts of Inclusive Playgrounds



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Expert Mentor: Ingrid M. Kanics, OTR/L, FAOTA, CPSI

Belmont University School of Occupational Therapy



Recreational Concepts Mission/Vision Statement

We bring families and communities together by building enthusiasm. We provide a vehicle for social interaction and building confidence, making everyday challenges a part of learning and growing. We bring laughter and smiles into every heart. We make people believe in themselves and that a day outside is better than peanut butter! We change lives...one playground at a time.

Recreational Concepts Needs

The agency desired to have an accurate perception of playground usage and experiences regarding inclusive play at three inclusive playgrounds throughout Middle Tennessee.

Literature Review

- There is a sizeable gap in literature regarding who is using inclusive playgrounds and if they are properly facilitating inclusive play. Obtaining a deeper understanding of how inclusive playgrounds are being used leads to best practice for playground designers to ensure the playground is accessible and inclusive. (1)
- OT's should be involved in the design process of inclusive playgrounds to ensure that the play space is maximally serving its community. (2)
- OT's can improve inclusive play experiences for all children by sharing their knowledge and perspective, as well as becoming active in community planning and political organizations. (3)

Project Goals

Learning Objectives

- Become knowledgeable of the lived experience of children and youth with disabilities
- Seek opportunities to develop leadership skills that are relevant to occupational therapy

Individual Objectives

- Obtain the Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) certification
- Improve and refine professional collaboration and communication skills

Site Objectives

- Provide an accurate assessment of parent/caregiver perceptions on inclusive play to improve the effectiveness and positive impacts of inclusive playgrounds in the Middle Tennessee area

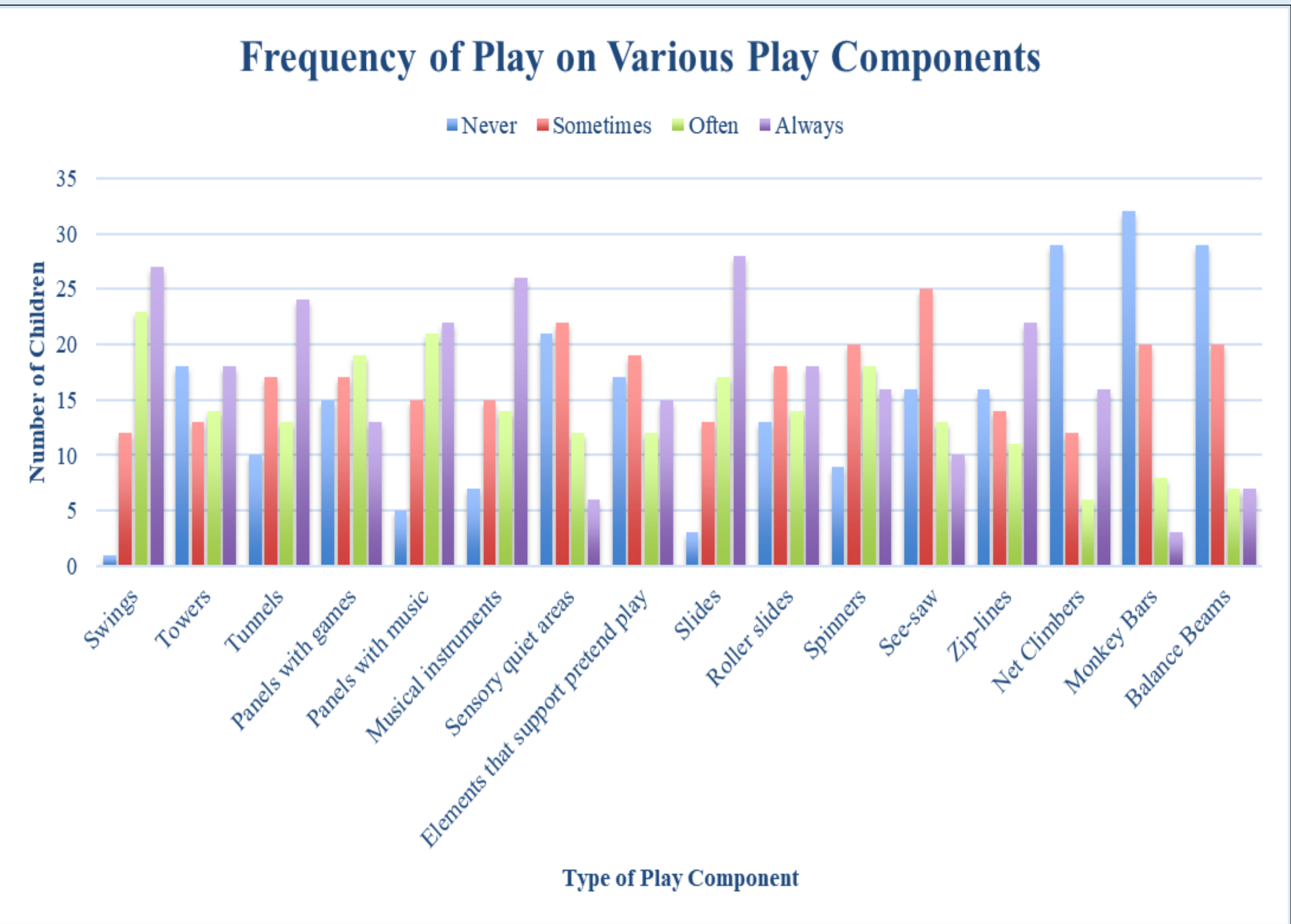
Capstone Outcomes

- Conducted an accurate assessment of parent and caregiver perceptions of inclusive play in the Middle Tennessee area through the use of an online survey.
- Obtained certification as a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI).
- Developed professional leadership skills through various opportunities through Belmont University and Recreational Concepts, LLC.

Data Analysis

Qualitative data analysis revealed the following themes:

- Usability of inclusive playgrounds
- Amenity adjustments
- Positive impact of inclusive playgrounds



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