

POLICY E.2

Subject: The Philosophical Base of Occupational Therapy

Code: RA Resolution 531-79, RA Motion 2003M19, 2006C377, 2011AprC13

PURPOSE: To establish a single philosophical base for the profession.

IT SHALL BE THE POLICY OF THE ASSOCIATION THAT:

1. There will be a single philosophical base for the profession.
2. The philosophical base will encompass the following points:
 - a. Occupations are activities that bring meaning to the daily lives of individuals, families, and communities and enable them to participate in society.
 - b. All individuals have an innate need and right to engage in meaningful occupations throughout their lives.
 - c. Participation in these occupations influences their development, health and well-being across the lifespan. As such, participation in meaningful occupation is a determinant of health.
 - d. Occupations occur within diverse social, physical, cultural, personal, temporal, or virtual contexts.
 - e. The quality of occupational performance and the experience of each occupation are unique in each situation due to the dynamic relationship between factors intrinsic to the individual, the contexts in which the occupation occurs, and the characteristics of the activity.
 - f. The focus and outcome of occupational therapy are individuals' engagement in meaningful occupations that support their participation in life situations.
 - g. Occupational therapy practitioners conceptualize occupations as both a means and an end to therapy. That is, there is therapeutic value in occupational engagement as a change agent, and engagement in occupations is also the ultimate goal of therapy.
 - h. Occupational therapy is based on the belief that occupations may be used for health promotion and wellness, remediation or restoration, health maintenance, disease and injury prevention, and compensation/adaptation.
 - i. The use of occupation to promote individual, community, and population health is the core of occupational therapy practice, education, research, and advocacy.

Effective: 4/79

Revised: 6/03, 4/06

BPPC Reviewed: 10/01, 1/02, 1/03, 1/06, 9/11, 7/15

Rescinded: