



AOTI



Thinking like an OT: Impact on housing design and independent living

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Background

- Employed by HSE community services
- Case load is primarily adults and children who have a physical and sensory disability
- Special Interest in accessible housing
- Committee Member of AOTI Housing Advisory group

Overview

1. Role of OT in housing
2. Person-environment-occupation (PEO) model
3. Good housing design

Role of OT in Housing I

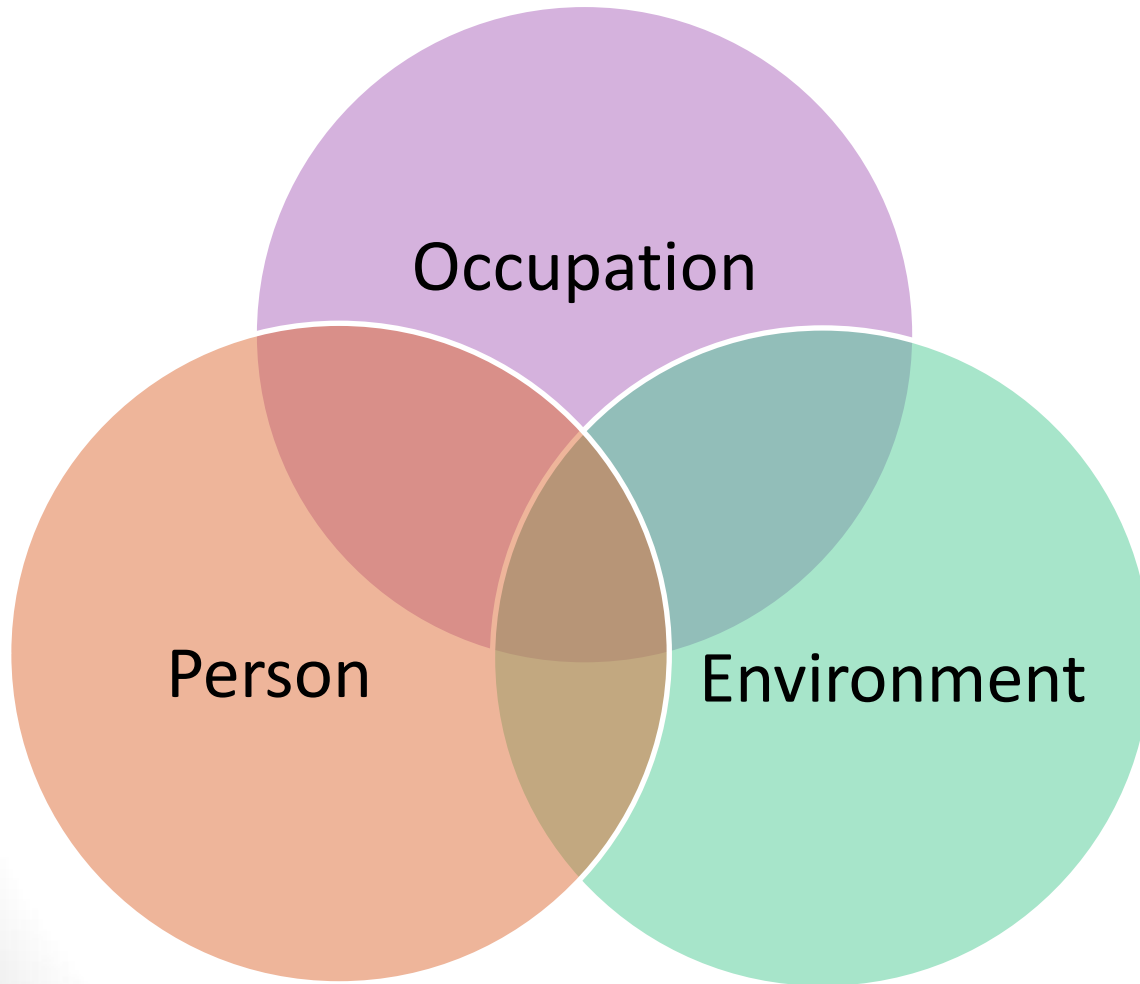
- helps people re-adapt to everyday *life* post-illness, -injury, -disability or -challenging life events.
- understand how health status impacts every day functioning
- assess the impact of a home on every day functioning (whether **facilitates**, or acts as a **barrier** to independent living).

Role of OT in Housing II

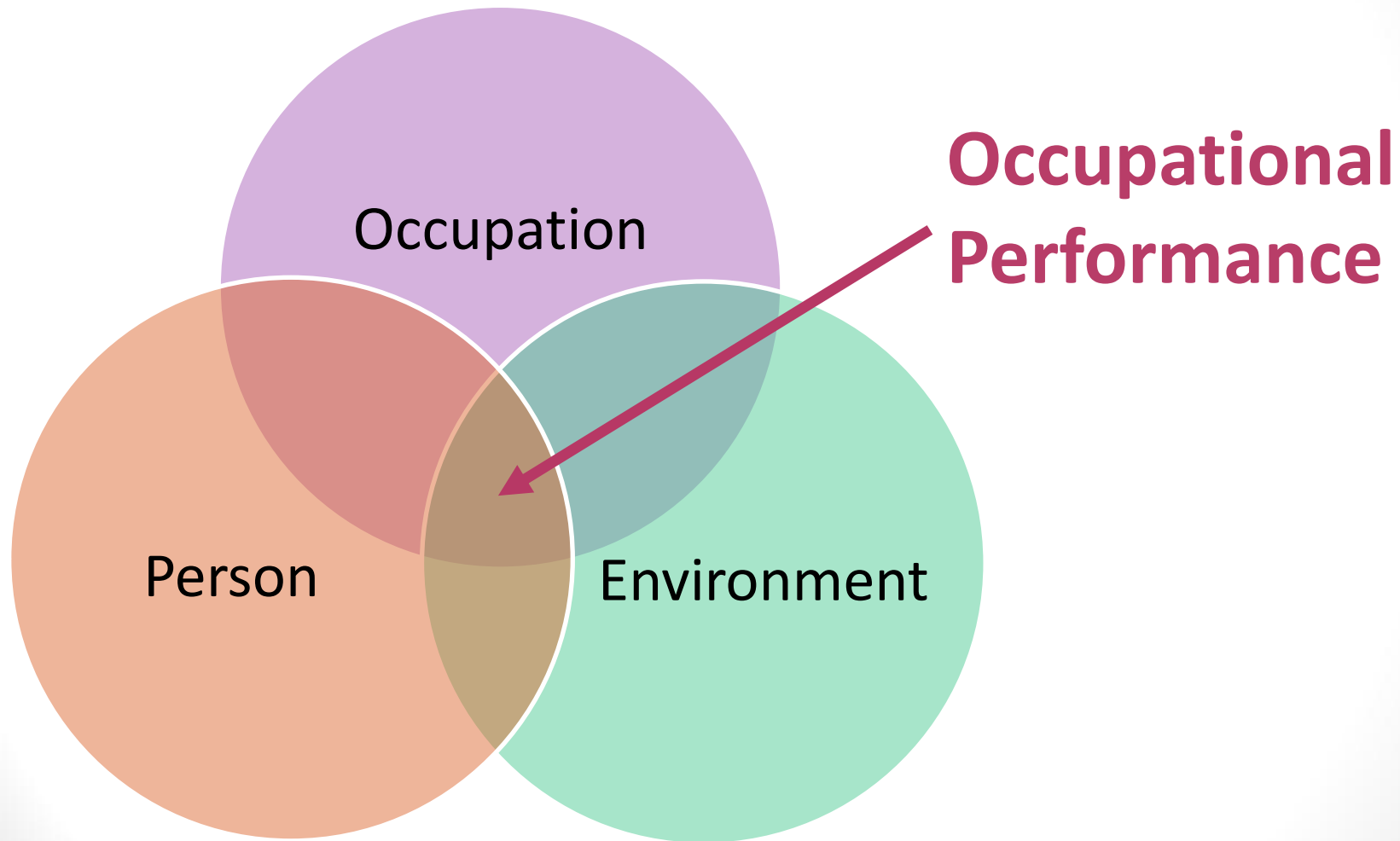
- Intervention can be:
 - provision of equipment
 - minor adaptations
 - major adaptations
 - rehousing
 - referral to external agency

Person-Environment-Occupation

Founded by Law et al (1996)



Person-Environment-Occupation



Principles of Good Housing Design

- comfortable and efficient, with a minimum physical effort.
- incorporates principles of **Universal Design**.

‘Lifetime homes can be accessible for all across the life course and for a range of disabilities, while accepting additional adjustment will be required for many individuals’.

Principles of Good Housing Design

- Tailored to the unique needs of the occupant, taking into account assessed medical and physical needs.
- Clear specifications to meet clients' needs.
- Fully-inclusive communication involving the service user, OT, architect and housing provider.

Principles of Good Housing Design

- considers the use of specialised equipment and care required, safe lifting and handling techniques, and the use of other furnishings.
- Incorporates the views of the service user and other family members.
- Efficiency and effectiveness; positive outcome for the service user and be achieved rapidly and cost effectively.

Principles of Good Housing Design

- design and composition of an environment should:
 - appeal to everyone
 - be easily understood
 - not be unnecessarily complex

Accessible Bathroom





Level access



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Benefits of OT intervention

- unique theoretical and practical skills
- work closely with the client.
- ideal position to influence best practices in housing design on a local and national level.
- ensuring funding reaches those in genuine need.

Thank you