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Investigation of the Effects of a Model of Physical Therapy on Mother-Child Interactions and the Motor Behaviors of Children With Motor Delay FREE

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Background and Purpose. Physical therapists strive to promote children's motor function and the parents' abilities to interact with their children, thus aiming to positively influence the parent-child relationship. This study examined a model for provision of home-based physical therapy within the context of motor play on mother-child interactions and motor behaviors of children. **Subjects.** The subjects were 38 mothers and their children with motor delay, aged 6 to 34 months ($\bar{X}=18.8$, $SD=7.2$), who were receiving center-based early intervention. **Method.** Children were ranked by motor development, using the Bayley Motor Scale, and assigned to either an experimental or control group. The experimental group received five home-based sessions of physical therapy. Conventional physical therapy strategies were incorporated into interactive play activities between mothers and their children. Both groups continued to receive their centered-based services. Mother-child interactions were videotaped before and after intervention and were analyzed using a modification of the response-class matrix. **Results.** The mothers in the experimental group demonstrated an increase in appropriate holding of their children, whereas mothers in the control group demonstrated a decrease. The mothers in the experimental group became more directive, thus controlling their children's behavior, but they were not less positive or more negative when interacting with their children. **Conclusion and Discussion.** The integration of conventional physical therapy within the context of interactive play was well received and may promote generalization of motor skills during play without interfering with positive mother-child interactions.

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