

In the previous publication, we made a short introduction to our arrival at the Corazones Unidos Project. Today we want to share our experiences in Ciudad Darío and how we work in the Occupational Therapy clinic. Three days a week we attend children, young people and adults with different needs. When we arrived to Ciudad Darío, we realized that there is a need of independence in life in people with disability.

First of all, we did an evaluation with the families and the people who were going to receive Occupational Therapy; we observed that there is a need related to the independence in their lives followed by a repeated concern of the main caretakers of what will happen when not be there to take care of these people.

We attend five children diagnosed with autism. With some of them the most important thing is to seek visual contact through an object or a game that get their attention in order to connect with them. Though, we are discovering and investigating new interests with other children. We work together with the mothers, who provide us information about what is the best way to interact with them. The main need detected by mothers has been to gradually regulate the behavioral alterations of their children.

Another need found by patients' mothers is the lack of the language, because it is difficult to communicate with them. Due to the request of the families, part of our intervention is focus on including the pictograms for daily routine. With this training, we work on the development of linguistic skills, the spatiotemporal structuring, emotional regulation to be able to anticipate the events that are going to happen each day, the simplification of the sequences of the daily basic activities. All of this with the purpose of making their communication with their family and community better.

Since we arrived we could observe the interest of children with the artistic activities. That was the reason why we decided to work in many interventions based on it. Crafts, creativity and the free expression of everyone are many times the center of our activities.

In the afternoon we have two groups, one is formed by adults who need to be able to feel autonomous in daily instrumental activities, mainly with financial management and food preparation. We are currently working on money management so, in further sessions, we can work on moving to the community. This is a very positive characteristic of the project though we have a chance to train in real contexts. We also have a kitchen where we will start to work on activities related on cooking.

In the second group, formed by boys and girls who play games with the purpose of improve different skills, such sensory-perceptual, emotional and cognitive communication and social regulation. All of this work has the aim of being able to have a suitable occupational performance.

In our sessions, emotions become very important, as we feel in each moment, learn to recognize ourselves and recognize what we need from others, provide support and show the emotions that are appropriate in

each situation.

Step by step we continue walking...