

DIR®/FLOORTIME SUMMER CAMP - Seattle, WA
Pediatric Physical and Occupational Therapy Services the
Offices of Rosemary White, OTR/L.

Staffing and Goals of the Camp:

To facilitate maximum interaction between the children and their peers we provide campers with a one to one aide who is a "floortime player" under the supervision of Rosemary White, OTR/L and other senior Occupational Therapists from our practice.

During spontaneous interactions, the "floortime player" will uses appropriate affect, such as facial expression, gesture, tone of voice, emotion tone, to support the child's ability to share attention, to be engagement, to respond to the child's intent or to highlight the intent of others and to maintain a continuous flow of interaction. As the children begin to respond and interact with their peers our goal is for the "floortime players" to fade back their support.

Each morning of the camp Rosemary and the lead therapist review with the staff the previous days experience with discussion and review of videotape of interactions that demonstrate how to support children using the DIR/Floortime Model. The "floortime players" are assigned to support a child for two to three days and then we change the players so that the children become used to many people responding to them and supporting them in their interactions.

The camp is not "adult driven" with adult organized activities

but rather we coach our "floortime players" to facilitate the children when they show interest and a desire to explore activities that another child shows interest in. These activities may be as simple as watching another child climb on the climber or push a car around a track or and complex as games with structure and rules that are developed by the children. Our goal is for the children to interact with many different children in a natural flow of play so that there is a fluid aspect as the child leads us.

The camp can be described as many small groups that are fluid as the children's interests in other children attract them to each other. Some children develop specific friendships and gravitate to a particular group while others mix with the entire group at different times.

The Environment:

The children play in the portables that are set up with various toys such as trucks, garages, dolls, trains, table activities, dress up, and opportunities for physical play There is a very big outside area as well.

The Flow of the Day:

- The children arrive and the parents bring them to the entrance of the portable for good byes;
- The children are met by their "floortime player" and enter the portable to put away their belongings and then the play begins.
- In some sessions we have done a good morning song and in others we have not, it depends on the group of children and

how attuned they are to each other and if they need that structure or if it is more effective to move into facilitating interactions immediately.

- The children have opportunity for outside time throughout every session, but it is not necessarily the entire group that will go out at one time. At any one time there may be a group of two children or more who will be playing on the field or on the playground with their "floortime players."
- There is a snack/lunch time during a session and this
- more for social interaction than a true need for nutrition. There is not a set time for the whole group to have snack but we move with the flow of the children and usually three or four children will eat together, thus giving us the opportunity to make this snack time one that is for the social aspect of eating with peers.
- At the end of the session we do sing a goodbye song with
- the group and then go out to meet the parents outside the portables.
- The "floortime player" will share with the parent the
- events of the day and how they supported the child in various interactions with peers.

The reason the children are greeted at the entrance to the portable and picked up outside is that it cuts down the number of people inside the portable and dedicates the portable as the place to play with friends. As the portables are in the rear of the school with a large parking space we are able to chat with parents in this area and this makes the transition to cars and car seats smoother.

Parents Meeting:

Prior to the camp Rosemary will have a meeting at Pediatric Physical and Occupational Therapy Services main office to orient new parents to the camp and answer any questions.

Over the course of the camp Rosemary will conduct two meetings for parents. These are held during the second and last week of the camp. This is a time to share with parents information about the DIR/Floortime model and the philosophy of the camp. Video clips of the children in the camp are shown to highlight the children in their social interactions with a focus on how we support their functional emotional developmental capacities and related social interaction with the "floortime players" and with peers. This is also time for parents to ask questions and to have an opportunity to interact with the other parents who have children in the camp.

We look forward to having your child in our DIR/Floortime Summer Camp.

Rosemary White, OTR/L