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An Educational Website to Foster the Participation of Summer Campers with Disabilities

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An Educational Website to Foster the Participation of Summer Campers with Disabilities

Abby Vander Laan, Steven M. Gerardi, PHD, OTD, MSS, OTR

BACKGROUND

Participation in camp offers many benefits and opportunities for children related to independence, leadership skills, competence, social skills, self-identity, opportunities to collaborate and take responsibility, and many more. (Garst & Whittington, 2020; Koegel et al., 2019; Wozencroft et al. 2019). However, children with disabilities are often excluded from typical camps due to a lack of environmental and activity accessibility as well as a lack of adequate counselor training (Reinders et al., 2019). This exclusion leads to decreased participation of children with disabilities in typical camps and a lack of access to the associated benefits.

PROBLEM

Counselors at summer camps that do not specialize in being inclusive for children with disabilities typically lack training to foster the participation of summer campers with disabilities, leaving them ill prepared to meet the needs of these children.

PURPOSE

To create a website to train camp counselors to provide accommodations to enable children with disabilities to participate in camp activities.

METHODS

- The Person-Environment-Occupation-Performance (PEOP) model was used as a theoretical framework for this project.
- Relevant information was gathered from a review of the literature
- Additional information was gathered from interviews with staff members from Camp for All, Morgan's Wonderland, an orientation and mobility specialist, and pediatric occupational therapists
- Additional information was gained from the capstone experience at the Southwest YMCA and KidVentures Therapy Services

WEBSITE DESCRIPTION

Topics Covered:

Inclusion

- Benefits and Barriers to Camp Participation
- Defining Inclusivity and its Benefits
- Expectations and the Continuum of Inclusion

Adapting the Activity and Environment

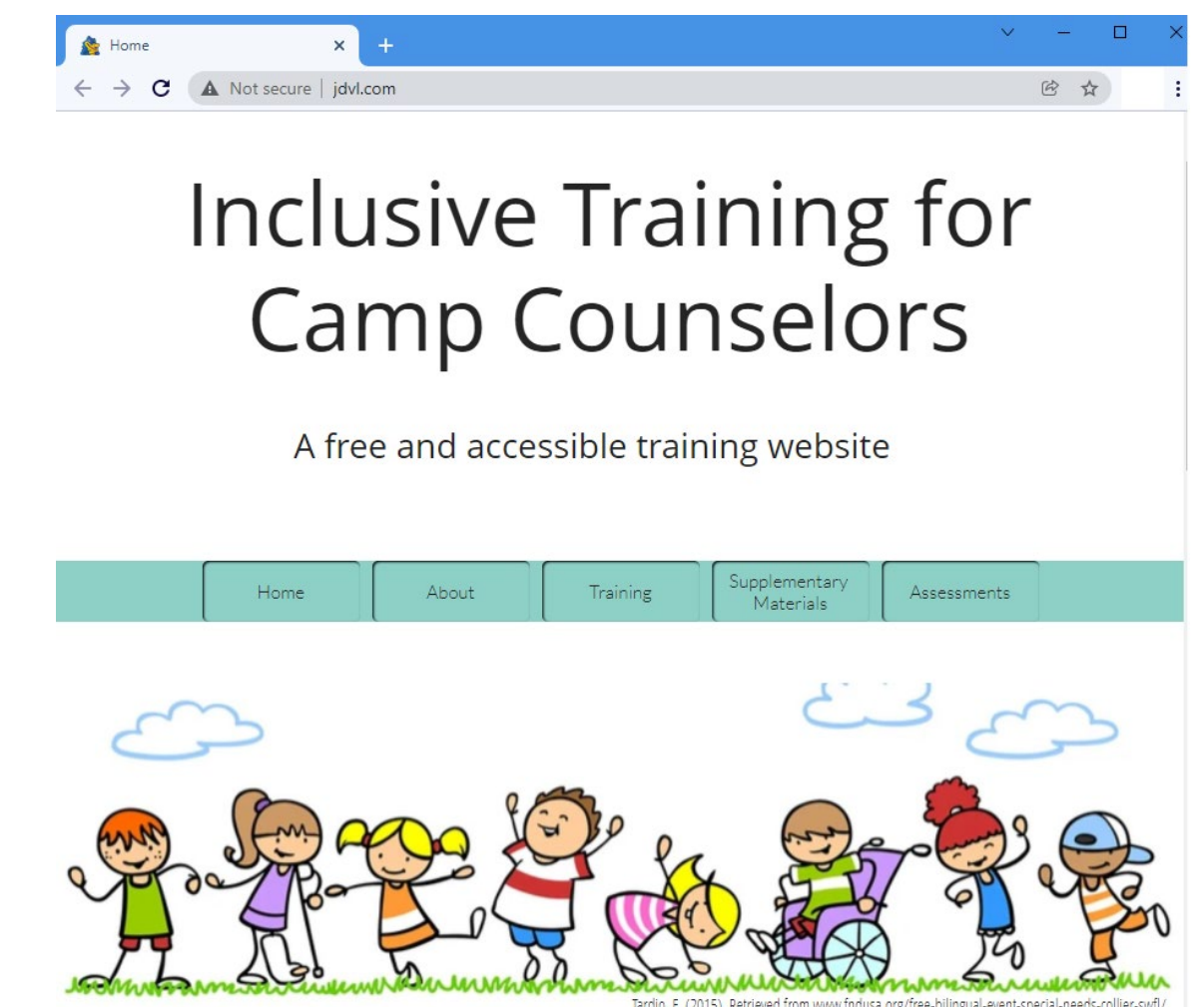
- Applicable ADA Standards
- Universal Design Defined
- Universal Design in Camp Activities

Disability

- Disability Etiquette
- Common Conditions and their Impact on Participation
- Parent Communication
- Sensory Integration
- Sensory Processing
- Behavior Management
- Peer Interaction
- Addressing Support Needs
- Assistive Devices

Components:

- 16 content videos
- 5 Kahoot! quizzes
- 1 pre/post test
- 1 perceived competency survey
- 1 feedback survey
- Supplemental videos and PDFs



Website address-
www.jdvl.com



SCAN ME

References

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