Go Baby Go! Facilitating Play and Social Participation with Blind & Visually Impaired Children

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Background

Children who are diagnosed with physical, cognitive, or visual disabilities have limited play and social engagement (Huang et al., 2014). Adapted powered ride-on cars present these children with an option for accessible play. The Go Baby Go! (GBG!) program successfully modifies these cars using assistive technology. While the GBG! program can be found across the United States, there are no chapters in Central Texas (University of Delaware, 2020).

Problem

The problem is that children with blindness & visual impairment (B/VI), in Central Texas, do not have access to a GBG! program that modifies powered ride-on cars to promote play, social interactions, and early mobility.

Purpose

The purpose of this project is to develop a sustainable Go Baby Go! program for community partners to serve children with B/VI in Central Texas.

Methodology

Development Phase
- Generate Funding
- Develop Marketing Materials
- Recruit
- Design Training Material

Resourcing Phase
- Research Evidence Base Articles
- Visit local GBG programs

Implementation Phase
- Build Day
- Race Day

Evaluation Phase
- Distribute Feedback Forms
- Analyze Feedback Forms

Sustainability Phase
- Enroll in Lending Library
- Develop Quarterly Follow Up Tool
- Write Grants for Future Funding

Go Baby Go! Event

Build Day
- Trained Pit-crew Members
- Began Ride-on Car Modifications
- Completed Fitting with Families Present

Race Day
- Constructed B/VI Accessible Racetrack
- Accessed Final Ride-on Car Modifications
- Oriented Participants to Racetrack for Test Run

Discussion

Strengths
- Utilized Evidence-based approach to meet each child's needs
- Prompted participation in child’s environment
- Enhanced interactive play, social engagement, and mobility experiences

Weaknesses
- Limited information prior to event
- Prolonged enrollment period
- Limited number of pit-crew members

Recommendations
- Include Orientation & Mobility Specialists in follow-up assessment
- Consider assistive technology evaluation
- Plan meet & greets prior to event
- Conduct research for outcomes with the B/VI population

References

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