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Title

Improving participation outcomes and interventions in neurodisability: co-designing future research

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Abbreviations: UK=United Kingdom; NHS=National Health Service; CFCS=Communication Function Classification System; GMFCS=Gross Motor Function Classification System
Contributors’ statement:

JMcA and NK conceived the project idea; developed and led the funding application; and managed the overall project. JMcA co-facilitated the service user involvement with children and young people; led and carried out the development of the search strategy; and led the writing of this manuscript. RB, CD, MQ and JM made a substantial contribution to the study methodology, and all contributed to discussions about the intervention and the subsequent study design. RB also screened the abstracts for inclusion, and CD and JM facilitated the service user groups together with JMcA and NK. NK led the development of the inclusion/exclusion criteria for the search; screened all titles and papers for inclusion; led and carried out data extraction and summary. All authors reviewed and revised the manuscript for substantial content, and approved the final manuscript as submitted.

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Abstract

There is an urgent, agreed need to improve participation outcomes and interventions for children and young people with neurodisability. We worked together with service
users and providers to design research into participation outcomes and interventions in neurodisability. We built on existing evidence about participation outcomes and interventions, and the WHO International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health. We: (1) specified seven participation outcome categories for measurement; (2) prioritised these for improvement: self-care, friends and social, and physical activity ranked the highest; (3) identified eleven potential intervention categories for targeting the top priority, self-care, through eight hypothesised change mechanisms; and agreed for the interventions to be delivered as a ‘Menu of Interventions’ for personalised self-care support; and (4) designed a before-and-after mixed methods feasibility study to evaluate the Menu with children and young people (0-12 years), and their parents and therapists.

Introduction

Participation in everyday life situations is a fundamental health outcome for all children, and a key healthcare outcome for children and young people with neurodisability. (Health 2013, Children and Young People’s Health Outcomes Forum 2012, Allard et al. 2014, World Health Organization 2007) However, implementation of effective, participation-focused services is hindered by the lack of routine outcome measures of participation (Morris et al. 2014, Kolehmainen et al. under review) and scarcity of replicable participation interventions with evidence of effectiveness. (Novak et al. 2013, Kolehmainen N In preparation, Raghavendra 2013, Adair et al. 2015) To address these challenges, there is an urgent need for further research into participation outcomes and interventions, (Novak et al. 2013, CountMeIn! Network 2015) especially into occupational, physical, and speech and language therapy outcomes and interventions. (Morris et al. 2015)

Research into participation outcomes and interventions is limited and notoriously challenging. (Whiteneck and Dijkers 2009, Raghavendra 2013, CountMeIn! Network 2015, Adair et al. 2015) Participation as a concept covers a range of domains and there is little consensus over how it should be operationalised for measurement. (Whiteneck and Dijkers 2009) Similarly, participation interventions are often complex (multifaceted), with their active ingredients difficult to define.
Our aim was to work with service users and providers to explore if, by working together, we could design feasible and practicable research into participation outcomes and interventions for children and young people with neurodisability. The focus was on outcomes potentially modifiable by, and interventions possibly provided by, occupational, physical, or speech and language therapists.

Our aims were to: (1) specify participation outcomes for measurement in routine practice; (2) prioritise one participation domain for further research; (3) identify potential intervention(s) for targeting that outcome, specify the hypothesised change mechanisms, and agree ways to deliver the intervention(s); and (4) design a study to evaluate the intervention(s). We also sought to provide an exemplar of service user involvement in designing research into participation outcomes and interventions.

**Methods**

This was a service user involvement project using the principles of co-design,(McLaughlin 2015, The VIPER Project 2012, Kirby 2004) supplemented with a rapid review of published literature. The main outcome was participation, defined using the World Health Organization International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF)(World Health Organization 2007) as ‘involvement in life situations’. To build on existing research,(Morris et al. 2014) we started with seven participation domains: community leisure, friends and social activities, physical activities and sports, self-care, sleep, transition to independence and independent living, and transition to employment. These domains were selected as potentially central to the three therapies (above), and broadly related to the research team’s expertise, thus could plausibly be advanced by the team. We adopted a view that participation outcomes may reflect both ‘doing’ and ‘being’, and that together they may form wider structures or pathways (e.g. ‘doing sports’ can contribute to ‘being with friends’).(Kolehmainen and Johnston under review) We were open to changing this assumption over the project, in line with our broader principle of pragmatism.(Cherryholmes 1992)

The service user partners self-selected from two NHS organisations by responding to open invitations sent to them. Service providers were selected to represent the
three therapies, and invited to become involved. The partners involved six young people with neurodisability (referred to below as ‘the young people’), and a young adult with neurodisability, four parents of young children with various neurodisabilities, five therapists and a senior therapy manager (referred to as ‘the adults’). The young people ranged in age from 11 to 18 years, attended mainstream schools and colleges with varying levels of support, and experienced a range of communication (CFCS Levels I-III)(Hidecker et al. 2011) and mobility (GMFCS Levels III-V)(Palisano et al. 2008) limitations. The young adult had recently left the service through supported transition to adult services. Ethics approval was not required as the project was a service user and provider collaboration, not research with subjects. The aims were met through four steps:

1. **Specify participation outcomes**

With the young people, JMcA and CD facilitated discussions about experiences and opinions of the different participation outcome categories by using visual characters and prompts, scenarios, and vignettes. These have been previously shown to enable young people, including young people with communication limitations, to direct the agenda, engage with concepts, and voice opinions. (Morris et al. 2014, Kolehmainen N 2015, Fargas-Malet et al. 2010) With the adults, NK and JM provided visual summaries of the participation outcome categories and related key words from existing qualitative evidence. (Morris et al. 2014) The adults were encouraged to add further keywords to each outcome as they considered important, and each outcome was then further jointly discussed. The views expressed across the young people and the adults were collated and tabulated next to one another. The contents were shared back to the adult partners for further comments, and formed the basis for further exploration with the young people. The research team did not contribute views to this step, but reflected on the views provided by the partners.

2. **Prioritise outcomes for further research**

Based on the discussions above, the young people, the adults, and the researchers individually ranked the participation outcomes in the order of importance for improvement. Two speech and language therapists were also asked to provide
rankings to improve representation (see acknowledgements). NK collated the responses and calculated one overall ranking for service users and another for service providers and researchers. The rankings were fed back to the groups, who confirmed the prioritised outcome.

3. **Identify intervention(s), specify change mechanisms, and agree delivery**

We conducted a rapid scoping review of published literature on interventions for targeting the prioritised outcome (for details, see Supplementary File). The focus was on identifying systematic reviews and substantial formal evaluations of interventions for children (0-18 years) with or without disabilities for the prioritised outcome. Papers were screened against PICOT inclusion and exclusion criteria, and abstracts that clearly met the criteria AND offered positive evidence of potential interventions for the prioritised outcome were accessed for a full review. We extracted key messages about any promising interventions from the included papers, and summarised these and any change mechanisms in visual presentations (see descriptions in step 1). These visual presentations were shared with the adults at further meetings; whereas the young people focused on further developing the materials they had generated about interventions, which were in turn integrated with the visual presentations.

Throughout the process, the young people and the adults reflected on the feasibility, acceptability and desirability of the different interventions. They shared ideas about who should deliver the interventions, to whom, where and how frequently; and which age groups should be targeted. They reflected on their own experiences and preferences of different interventions, and on intervention features (ingredients and delivery) that influenced success. The discussions also covered hypothesised change mechanisms.

4. **Design a study to evaluate the intervention**

Based on the ideas and views generated over the two rounds of meetings (see above), and existing evidence (see above), the researchers drafted a research question, aims, and an overall design to advance the intervention(s) using the Medical Research Council guidance for complex interventions. (Craig *et al.* 2008, Medical Research Council 2000) Also, specific design questions were identified and
presented to the young people and adults, e.g. what the population criteria should be (age, disability, healthcare professional type), what outcomes should be measured and from whom, and what should the control condition be.

Results

Five of the seven outcome categories were specified, and ranked in order of priority (Table 1). In addition, transition to independence was moved to within self-care, and transition to independent living and employment were considered to be currently supported outside children's health services in the main, thus not included further. Self-care, friends and social, and physical activity and sports were ranked first, second, and third highest priorities for improvement, respectively. Self-care was further operationalised for measurement (Table 2), using the dimensions described as important by the service users.

For the rapid review of potential self-care interventions, we screened 9,190 titles, which were reduced to 181 abstracts, and then 38 full-texts (for full details, see Supplementary File). A final 13 full-texts were included; all but one (Law et al. 2011) had sample sizes <50 and were judged to have substantial methodological limitations (e.g. use of before-after designs). A further 9 papers on constraint-induced movement therapy (CIMT) and one on powered mobility would have been included, but were replaced with more up-to-date systematic reviews,(Sakzewski et al. 2014, Livingstone and Field 2014) resulting in a total of 15 included full-texts.

No interventions with conclusive evidence of effectiveness for improving self-care were identified. CIMT,(Sakzewski et al. 2014) goal-setting,(Donlau et al. 2013, Hwang et al. 2013, Löwing et al. 2009, Sorsdahl et al. 2010) and powered mobility(Livingstone and Field 2014) were consistently promising interventions. Few papers explicitly stated proposed change mechanisms, but hypothesised mechanisms (described as ‘barriers’ and ‘facilitators’) emerged over the discussions with the young people and the adults (Table 1). In addition, the young people and adults proposed interventions.

Across the young people and the adults the single most consistent message was that self-care interventions needed to be tailored to the preferences and circumstances of the individual child, young person and family. From this, a proposal
was made that the full list of interventions would be offered, and individual children, young people and families enabled to choose those that fitted their needs, preferences and circumstances. Other key points for intervention delivery were that any intervention should: always be considered in the context of family goals, proactively facilitate joint working across agencies, support the whole family, and seek to make use of everyday developmental opportunities. Ultimately, the intervention was agreed to be a ‘Menu of Interventions’, designed to support families and therapist(s) to make joint decisions about what factors (‘mechanisms’) to target and using which interventions.

The Menu (Figure 1) consists of eleven intervention categories developed together with the service users and from the rapid review of existing literature: set individual goals with support, modelling by similar people, monitor and compare against the target/standard, practice with feedback, grade tasks, problem solving, adapt tasks/environment, provide equipment, demonstrate and train, provide information, direct to community-based public health interventions. These intervention categories target eight mechanisms emerging from service-user discussions: children and young person (CYP) and parent motivation and determination, CYP confidence to undertake self-care, parent confidence in CYP undertaking self-care and to support CYP, CYP emotions, parent emotions, family habits and routines, CYP and parent knowledge and skills related to specific tasks, CYP mobility, and knowledge (especially parent). The Menu can be used by multiple agencies to facilitate joint working and be held by the family to support overall family control.

In light of the lack of conclusive evidence of effectiveness for any of the specific interventions included in the Menu, and lack of evidence about which of these might be most likely to be taken up or how they are currently delivered, it was agreed that an exploratory feasibility study was needed. The agreed study design is summarised in Table 2, including specification of the feasibility and acceptability outcomes.

**Discussion**

We worked together to identify self-care as the key priority outcome; develop a multifaceted Menu of Interventions for personalised self-care support; specify its eleven ingredients and eight mechanisms of change; and design a study to investigate it. The project partners were unlikely to represent the full range of views
in the neurodisability community. However, our intention was not to conduct a representative consensus study, but to work with service users as part of a team to design an intervention and a related research study.

We also provided an exemplar of service user involvement in designing research into participation outcomes and interventions. Involving service users is thought to have a positive impact on the quality, relevance, and acceptability of health research. (Brett et al. 2014, Patterson et al. 2014, Morris et al. 2015) In our project this impact was particularly evident in the rating of self-care as the highest priority. Self-care has long been considered the stock-in-trade for many therapies; however, the rapid review in the present project and previous reviews (Novak et al. 2013, Kolehmainen N In preparation, Adair et al. 2015) demonstrate that it has received limited research attention. In addition, service users’ definition of self-care emphasised dimensions related to autonomy and dignity (e.g. making decisions, being listened to), which in current practice are often overlooked in favour of safety and access. The next step is to investigate the intervention – using the study we designed.

**Key messages**

- The paper presents an exemplar of service users, service providers and researchers co-designing research on participation outcomes and interventions in neurodisability
- The team adopted a cumulative approach to improving participation outcomes and interventions, building on existing evidence
- Service users prioritised participation in self-care, an outcome that has received limited research attention; and highlighted important dimensions of self-care that are under-explored in practice
Table 1. Summary of the important aspects of the five participation outcomes, and of the related proposed facilitators and barriers, and interventions, and priorities for improvement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Adults (service users &amp; providers)</th>
<th>Young people</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Self-care</strong></td>
<td>Important dimensions: Dignity – being listened to, and having one's values and opinions respected Building the skills over time, learning, development Increasing independence across basic activities (dressing, personal hygiene, etc), and more complex tasks (managing money and time, snack preparation and cooking, laundry, cleaning and tidying, clothes care) Accessing what is needed</td>
<td>Important dimensions: Making decisions Instructing other people in tasks (e.g. instructing carer) Positive outcomes/goals: smelling nice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Priority #1</strong></td>
<td>Potential facilitators/barriers: Physical skills and mobility to do tasks Knowledge and skills specific to the tasks</td>
<td>Potential facilitators/barriers: Motivation, determination Knowledge and skills (incl. doing things safely) Children and young people’s (CYP’s) confidence Other people's confidence the CYP can do it Physical skills and mobility Habit of accepting help</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Potential interventions: Learning opportunities with appropriate support Individual goal-setting with appropriate support Equipment, adaptations Joint working</td>
<td>Potential interventions: Relaxation techniques (e.g. music) Adaptations, setting up the space in the right way Carers’ behaviours: listening to the CYP, respecting the CYP, accepting CYP choices, having a laugh Equipment Training (for carers, parents)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friends and social activities</strong></td>
<td>Important dimensions: Relaxing and enjoying spending time together Relating to people appropriately Doing things together</td>
<td>Important dimensions: Have fun, feel included, go where other people go</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Priority #2</strong></td>
<td>Potential facilitators/barriers: “Self-reliance”: independence, ability to take care of oneself so</td>
<td>Potential facilitators/barriers: Being confident, but not too confident, to make friends</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
as not to put ‘caring expectations’ or ‘be a burden/hindrance’ on friends – also self-care (independence in it, see below)
Knowledge of current topics, ‘having the right chat’

Potential interventions:
Transport (to get to places)
Funding
Equipment
Wheelchairs, powered mobility (to get to places, to keep up)
Peer support and relationships (built over time)
Providing information (especially learning from other disabled people)
Social media

If you’re nervous, you may need to hang back
Goals, motivation of the person

Potential interventions:
Opportunities (it might not work the first time making friends, but they may open up to you after several meetings; most of my friends I met through sport)
Access to like-minded people (It’s easier to become friends if the other person has similar physical abilities, because they understand what you can and can’t do. It’s easier because you can both access the same environments, do similar activities; important to have people you get along with well)
Advice, guidance to the person (You might need help avoiding getting in with the wrong group, the naughty kids; help to use social media)
Social support and role modelling (e.g. by parents)
Information to other people (Society needs more information on how to make friends with someone who is a wheelchair user, and needs to know how to treat wheelchair users)
Transport/practical help (to get to where you need to go to see your friends, to plan activities)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical activity (PA), sports &amp; active lifestyle</th>
<th>Important dimensions:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Priority #3</td>
<td>Doing what one enjoys – focus on here-and-now not just long-term health benefits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Positive outcomes/goals related to sports/PA: socialisation, belong to a group, fun and enjoyment, staying healthy, being challenges and achieving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Potential facilitators/barriers:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Motivation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Potential interventions:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adapt activities</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Set goals around the positive outcomes (here-and-now, not just long term health benefits)</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Important dimensions:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Going to clubs, playing sports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confidence in sports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive outcomes/goals related to sports/PA: feeling physically related to do, happiness, fun, making friends</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Potential interventions:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social support and encouragement (e.g. from family, friends)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community leisure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accessing and using shared environments, e.g. libraries, swimming pools, cinemas, parks, beaches, etc</td>
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<tr>
<td>Going to community-based clubs, hobbies, church, etc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowing people in the community, outside immediate family and friends, and interacting and communicating with them</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moving around in the community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Making choices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complying with wider community rules and regulations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential facilitators/barriers:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff/community confidence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge of available options</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having confidence to go out and join in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feeling welcome and accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential interventions:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adapting activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providing information about what leisure activities, events, places are available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providing information about what support is available (transportation, funding, facilities, social support)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support for YP and parents (peer groups, professional support)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community makes the person feel welcome</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sleep</th>
<th>Important dimensions:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Falling asleep, staying asleep, healthy sleep patterns</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Quality of sleep, being comfortable</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Important dimensions:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Being comfortable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Falling asleep</td>
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<tr>
<th>Potential facilitators/barriers:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Being stiff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Having enough space in the bed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Potential interventions:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sleep routines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment (sleep systems, sensory, alarms, postural management)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health visiting/school health interventions to support good sleep-related parenting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preventative/early sleep interventions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. The draft Menu of Interventions, with potential factors to target (in blue-white boxes) and intervention techniques to target them with (green boxes)

**MENU OF INTERVENTIONS**

- **Set individual goal with appropriate support**
  - Motivation, determination (CYP, parents)
  - Confidence in doing things (CYP, parents), and other people’s confidence in CYP doing things

- **Modelling by similar people (incl. vicarious experience)**
  - CYP positive emotions (fun, enjoy), and avoiding negative emotions (embarrassed)
  - Parent negative emotions, stress
  - Parent and family habits and daily routines, including habits related to accepting help

- **Monitor & compare against the target/standard**
  - Mobility to do tasks (CYP)
  - Knowledge and skills to do specific tasks (physical and other skills, incl. how to do things safely) – CYP and parents
  - Knowing what’s available, esp. equipment & in community/changing facilities

- **Provide equipment (incl. powered mobility)**
- **Adapt the task and/or the environment**
- **Practice (with feedback)**
- **Grade tasks (start with easy and build it up)**
- **Problem solving**
- **Demonstrate and train, especially parents (e.g. in moving and handling) – in person, online**
- **Provide information on what to expect, what to do, how to access resources and support**
- **Direct to community-based public health interventions**
### Table 2. Summary of the agreed intervention design

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Title:</strong> Personalised self-care support for children and young people with neurodisability and their parents: a mixed methods feasibility study of the Menu of Interventions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>RQ:</strong> How will a personalised Menu of Interventions for self-care support be taken up and experienced by children and young people (CYP) with neurodisability, their parents, and healthcare professionals; and how will these compare to current self-care support?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aims:</strong> To investigate the feasibility, acceptability, and potential costs and benefits of the Menu of Interventions. To investigate if CYP, parent or therapist characteristics relate to uptake or acceptability. To describe current self-care support in terms of feasibility, acceptability, and potential costs and benefits – and descriptively compare it to the Menu of Interventions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Design:** A mixed methods (QUALITATIVE+quantitative) feasibility study with six NHS Trusts and their service users. The main health outcome will be self-care, defined as a combination of (i) “making decisions about things that affect me, including having my values and opinions respected, and being listened to” and (ii) “developing and learning skills for looking after myself, ranging from basic tasks (e.g. dressing, personal hygiene, eating) to complex sets of tasks (e.g. managing money and time, snack preparation and cooking, laundry and clothes care, cleaning, accessing resources, and managing and directing care providers)”.

Feasibility, acceptability, and potential costs and benefits to be evaluated as: uptake and adherence to the Menu (e.g. numbers of therapists, parents and CYP; their characteristics; and aspects of the Menu used), satisfaction and perceived impact – especially in relation to expectations, challenges to uptake, coverage and what needs added to the Menu, frequency of contact following the use of the Menu, and time and emotional costs to stakeholders.

The study population will be occupational therapists, physiotherapists and/or speech and language therapists in community/outpatient healthcare settings providing care for CYP with neurodisability from birth until after the transition to secondary school (estimated age 0-13 years); the CYP seen by these therapists; and the CYPs’ parents. Neurodisability will be understood in line with the UK consensus definition. (Morris et al. 2013)

**The intervention:** The Menu of Interventions is a prototype for an interactive interface to support CYP, parents and therapists to work together to identify: (i) what factors to target for change for that particular CYP and family, and (ii) what interventions they wish to use for this. The Menu consists of eight intervention categories developed together with service users and from a review of existing literature: practice and feedback, adapt tasks, provide equipment, adapt environment, demonstrate, provide information, set individual goals with support, direct to community-based public health interventions. These intervention categories target ten factors: parent knowledge, CYP confidence to undertake self-care activities, parent confidence to support CYP in learning skills, family habits and routines, CYP motivation and determination, and parent motivation and determination, CYP physical skills and mobility, CYP task-specific skills, parent task-specific skills, and parent emotions. The Menu is used with CYP and parents who indicate they have goals related to self-care.
References


The Viper Project (2012) The VIPER project: how we did the qualitative research.


SUPPLEMENTARY FILE: The methods and results of the rapid review

For search, two key databases for therapy and rehabilitation interventions were used: MEDLINE (1946-present, via Ovid), and CINAHL (1981-present, via EBSCO). The search strategy covered three facets: ‘children and young people’, ‘therapy, rehabilitation and health behaviour interventions’, and ‘self-care’, using free text terms and thesaurus-controlled standard terms (MeSH) where available. Terms within each facet were combined using the Boolean operator ‘OR’, and resulting sets of papers were combined using ‘AND’. See MEDLINE search strategy below. We prioritised specificity as preliminary scoping had indicated a potentially large number of eligible papers.

For screening, we developed PICOT inclusion and exclusion criteria covering:

- **Population**: included aged 0-18 years; excluded if focus on intellectual disability, behaviour that challenges, mental health conditions, or diabetes/asthma/weight management.
- **Intervention**: included therapy and rehabilitation interventions involving an occupational, physical, or speech and language therapist, or generic health behaviour interventions that could be adopted by therapists; excluded pharmacological, acupuncture, respiratory, and neuromuscular electrical stimulation interventions.
- **Comparison/control intervention**: any.
- **Outcome**: self-care as defined by the young people and the adults for this project.
- **Type**: any intervention study or a systematic review of interventions.

Titles were screened by NK; abstracts by NK and RB. Specificity was prioritised over sensitivity, e.g. papers were retained only when the title or abstract clearly indicated that the focus of the study was on children, or the reviewers judged this to be plausible based on the title. Any papers not clearly meeting the inclusion criteria were excluded. This approach was based on experience from two previous reviews by JM and NK where a broad inclusion criteria was used with a sensitive screening approach; and it was consistently concluded that if a title or abstract did not clearly meet the inclusion criteria then the full text rarely met it either. Furthermore, it was
concluded that the sensitive approach to screening was very resource intensive for the low return of additional papers. Papers were managed in Refworks.

Table S1. Example (Medline) of the search strategy used

| Database: Ovid MEDLINE(R) <1946 to February Week 1 2016>
| Search Strategy (conducted 15 February 2016):

1  Disabled Children/ (4793)
2  disab* child*.mp. [mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, keyword heading word, protocol supplementary concept word, rare disease supplementary concept word, unique identifier] (6527)
3  disab* student*.mp. [mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, keyword heading word, protocol supplementary concept word, rare disease supplementary concept word, unique identifier] (246)
4  Child/ (1448840)
5  child*.mp. [mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, keyword heading word, protocol supplementary concept word, rare disease supplementary concept word, unique identifier] (1939871)
6  youth.mp. or Adolescent/ (1707451)
7  young people.mp. (16542)
8  1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 or 7 (2814265)
9  exp Rehabilitation/ (162424)
10 rehabilitat*.mp. [mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, keyword heading word, protocol supplementary concept word, rare disease supplementary concept word, unique identifier] (126058)
11 Physical Therapy Specialty/ (2317)
12 Speech-Language Pathology/ (2316)
13 occupational therap*.mp. [mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, keyword heading word, protocol supplementary concept word, rare disease supplementary concept word, unique identifier] (14006)
14 physical therap*.mp. [mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, keyword heading word, protocol supplementary concept word, rare disease supplementary concept word, unique identifier] (40155)
15 physiotherap*.mp. [mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, keyword heading word, protocol supplementary concept word, rare disease supplementary concept word, unique identifier] (15442)
16 speech therap*.mp. [mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, keyword heading word, protocol supplementary concept word, rare disease supplementary concept word, unique identifier] (6834)
17 patient education.mp. or Patient Education as Topic/ (83082)
18 health promotion.mp. or Health Promotion/ (66575)
19 intervention.mp. [mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, keyword heading word, protocol supplementary concept word, rare disease supplementary concept word, unique identifier] (354065)
20 9 or 10 or 11 or 12 or 13 or 14 or 15 or 16 or 17 or 18 or 19 (725927)
21 self care.mp. or Self Care/ (31365)
22 activities of daily living.mp. or "Activities of Daily Living"/ (59719)
23 personal care.mp. [mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, keyword heading word, protocol supplementary concept word, rare disease supplementary concept word, unique identifier] (2513)
24 21 or 22 or 23 (90352)
25 8 and 20 and 24 (14111)
Figure S1. The PRISMA flowchart of the included and excluded papers

Identification

n=10,435 records identified through database searching (n=6,514 from MEDLINE, n=3,921 from CINAHL)

n=9,009 records excluded based on titles

n=9,190 records screened based on titles

n=181 records screened based on titles and abstracts

n=1,245 duplicate articles removed

n=2 related systematic review articles included

n=38 full-text records assessed for eligibility

n=13 articles included as eligible

n=143 records excluded (n=108 did not target self-care, had no promising interventions, or lacked basic details (e.g. number of participants); n=35 unable to access)

n=9,190 records screened based on titles and abstracts

n=25 records excluded (n=15 did not target self-care; n=10 replaced with recent systematic reviews)

Total of n=15 articles included in data analysis and summary

n=38 full-text records assessed for eligibility

n=13 articles included as eligible

n=2 related systematic review articles included
Table S2. Papers reviewed in full, and key points extracted to inform further discussion and planning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First author, year</th>
<th>Article title</th>
<th>Key points extracted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ritchie, O’Hara &amp; Taylor, 2015 (1)</td>
<td>'Kids in the Kitchen' impact evaluation: engaging primary school students in preparing fruit and vegetables for their own consumption</td>
<td>School based engagement in food preparation may relate to food preparation knowledge and skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aleksejūnienė &amp; Brukienė, 2012 (2)</td>
<td>Oral hygiene education in adolescence based on the Precaution Adoption Process Model</td>
<td>Tailored intervention in classroom to change knowledge, skills and/or confidence had small positive effects on oral hygiene behaviours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blank et al. 2008 (3)</td>
<td>Conductive education for children with cerebral palsy: effects on hand motor functions relevant to activities of daily living</td>
<td>Conductive education related to scores on activities of daily living</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donlau et al. 2013 (4)</td>
<td>Children with myelomeningocele and independence in the toilet activity: a pilot study</td>
<td>Goal-setting could be related to goal achievement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drahota et al. 2011 (5)</td>
<td>Effects of cognitive behavioral therapy on daily living skills in children with high-functioning autism and concurrent anxiety disorders</td>
<td>Cognitive behavioural therapy techniques could be helpful for increasing parent-reported skills in activities of daily living</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hurling et al. 2013 (6)</td>
<td>Automated coaching to help parents increase their children's brushing frequency: an exploratory trial</td>
<td>Online coaching for teeth brushing, based on social cognitive models, might be efficacious in increasing brushing behaviour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hwang et al. 2013 (7)</td>
<td>A randomized controlled trial of routines-based early intervention for children with or at risk for developmental delay</td>
<td>Goal-setting and coaching to enhance children's participation in family routines may make children more likely to participate in those family routines than goals based on developmental milestones and parental instruction for achieving such goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josenby et al. 2015 (8)</td>
<td>Functional performance in self-care and mobility after selective dorsal rhizotomy: a 10-year practice-based follow-up study</td>
<td>Children who underwent selective dorsal rhizotomy and physiotherapy improved in functional performance in self-care and mobility and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First author, year</td>
<td>Article title</td>
<td>Key points extracted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Law et al. 2011 (9)</td>
<td>Focus on function: a cluster, randomized controlled trial comparing child- versus context-focused intervention for young children with cerebral palsy</td>
<td>were more independent 10 years postoperatively</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Löwing et al. 2009 (10)</td>
<td>Activity focused and goal directed therapy for children with cerebral palsy -- do goals make a difference?</td>
<td>Include – no evidence that context vs individual was better</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park et al. 2014 (11)</td>
<td>Effects of hippotherapy on gross motor function and functional performance of children with cerebral palsy</td>
<td>Goal-setting may facilitate activities of daily living activity, performance and goal achievement more than providing instruction and practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rigby et al. 2009 (12)</td>
<td>Effect of adaptive seating devices on the activity performance of children with cerebral palsy</td>
<td>Hippotherapy may be useful to improve scores on the Pediatric Evaluation of Disability Inventory in children with cerebral palsy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sorsdahl et al. 2010 (13)</td>
<td>Change in basic motor abilities, quality of movement and everyday activities following intensive, goal-directed, activity-focused physiotherapy in a group setting for children with cerebral palsy</td>
<td>Goal-directed activity-focused physiotherapy with involvement of child’s local environment may reduce need for caregiver assistance in self-care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sakzewski et al. 2014 (14)</td>
<td>Efficacy of upper limb therapies for unilateral cerebral palsy: a meta-analysis.</td>
<td>Intensive, activity-based, goal-directed constraint-induced movement therapy and bimanual training are more effective than standard care in improving upper limb and individualised outcomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livingstone &amp; Field, 2014 (15)</td>
<td>Systematic review of power mobility outcomes for infants, children and adolescents with mobility limitations.</td>
<td>Powered mobility may relate to a broad range of positive participation, activity, and body structure and function outcomes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
References


