

### Diagram 1: Model of Human Occupation (Keilhofner, 2007)

The Model of Human Occupation (MOHO) (Diagram 1), developed by Dr Gary Kielhofner in the 1980's, is a theoretical model widely used in occupational therapy practise. It is based on the premise that humans are 'open systems', functioning within and responding to their environment.

MOHO lends itself to reflections within a theoretical framework, regarding the impact of acquired brain injury on an individual; according to their specific disabilities, environment and the context within which they function and live their lives.

## Justifying individual support worker input for individuals with cognitive difficulties following acquired brain injury; using occupational therapy theory and bespoke support worker records.

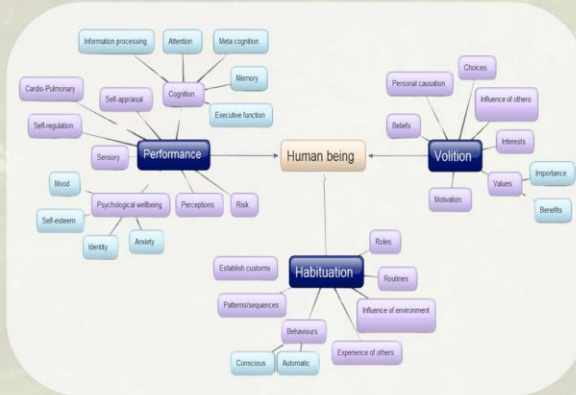
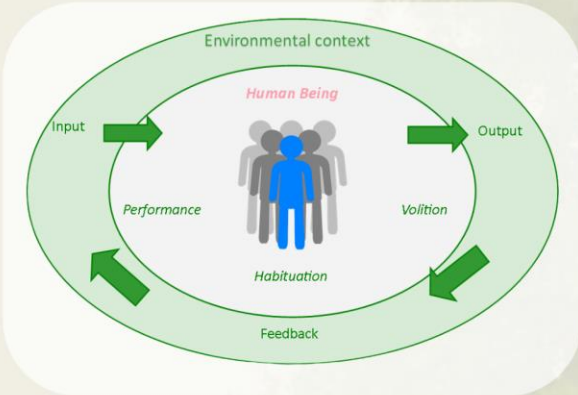
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### Diagram 2: Impact of ABI on a Human System

In MOHO, human beings are conceptualised as being made of three inter-related components: performance, volition and habituation. An ABI has the potential to effect any number or combination of sub-components as Diagram 2 illustrates.

### Diagram 3: Potential for Support Workers to Impact the Occupational Environment

Skilled support worker input has the potential to impact positively on the way in which an individual 'open system' functions by manipulating the physical and psychosocial environment within which they engage in occupation.



**Case Study:** using bespoke, electronic records to collect data specific to an individual's needs and environmental context.

Amy sustained an ABI at the age of 28 years. Data was recorded by Amy's support workers, following training in how to record appropriate information i.e. what constitutes a verbal or physical prompt, and what defines true independence in a task.

The data collected showed that Amy was unable to complete many important daily functions from initiation through to completion. Indeed the only activities where she was able to fully engage were sofa based, solo activities (with background supervision to deal with unplanned events).

The influence of the support workers is essential in terms of structuring and adapting environmental feedback. In Amy's case the data collected remained consistent over a period of 18 months, 5 years post injury, emphasising the need for a package of 24 hour support in order for her to live a safe and varied life.

#### Table of activity engagement

Activities the person was NOT able to fully engage in at any time of the day (choosing, initiating and following through) included

- Weekly shop
- Visiting daycentre
- Hiredaway
- Going to the GP
- Going to the bank
- Collecting medication
- Mowing the lawn
- Going into town
- Visiting family
- Going for a walk
- Cooking
- Going out for lunch/ dinner
- Playing pool
- Packing/unpacking
- Setting up the PC/DVD player

Activities the person was able to fully engage in at any time of the day (choosing, initiating and following through)

- Watching television
- Playing on the Xbox
- Using the laptop

### Conclusion:

It is my view that the MOHO theoretical framework neatly demonstrates the feedback cycle intrinsic to occupational engagement. When the internal elements of function are disrupted, such as by cognitive difficulties caused by acquired brain injury, then support workers fulfil a crucial role in manipulating the environmental context to promote occupational engagement once more. As the diagrams illustrate, there are many inputs which the support workers provide to someone with ABI. The data collected via support worker records in the case study shows – quite starkly – that in the absence of support, occupational engagement can be extremely limited.