

The Art Therapy Skills Assessment for Older Adults
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Abstract

The Art Therapy Skills- Assessment for Older Adults was created in order to aid the art therapist who is beginning work in a long term care setting with cognitively and physically impaired elderly. This thesis describes how the created assessment measures the physical and cognitive functioning levels of individuals with the aim of providing appropriate art therapy services. The rationale for using the assessment is addressed as is the manner in which it should be conducted. The Administering Conditions, the Directives used, and the Scoring Procedures are described and supported by research done previously in the field of gerontology. An attempt has been made to create a skills assessment that, unlike other assessments and tests published, is sensitive to the cognitive and physical impairments of older adults and this is, it is hoped, reflected in the overall picture provided by this assessment. It is believed that a tool such as this would be beneficial to art therapists as more are becoming employed in long term care settings and senior service agencies which have not previously used the services of an art therapist.