

Student to Catalyst

Education and Implementation of Sensory Needs for Adolescent Males Through a Trauma Responsive Lens

DISCOVERING HER PLACE

Dr. Tatum Johnson's 14-week experience was multifaceted, grounded in hands-on service and systemic change. Tatum curated a comprehensive training binder based on 50 hours of educational material and led in-services on reflex integration for OT students. She held weekly meetings with staff and students to foster open communication, ensuring alignment between the WMU OT clinic and Bethany staff. In the OT clinic, she helped establish resident binders and created procedures to streamline collaboration. Tatum also took a proactive role in addressing the sensory needs of youth in both school and residential settings. She created individual sensory kits with worry stones and acupressure rings for use throughout the school day and implemented structured movement breaks. She introduced a mindfulness cart divided that allowed youth to independently select coping tools based on their immediate needs—whether that is movement, quiet time, or tactile stimulation.



Items Available in Mindfulness Cart Created by Dr. Johnson



Tatum Johnson, OTD

LEARNING, LEADING, AND GROWING

The capstone experience wasn't just about what Tatum gave to Bethany Christian Services (BCS), it was also about what she gained. She partnered with the residential therapist to observe and lead DBT groups, eventually taking on a full leadership role. She also co-led and facilitated therapeutic OT groups, incorporating mindfulness, breathwork, and mind-body awareness activities. She immersed herself in varying group dynamics, to better understand the ins and outs of the program and how to build team initiatives. These experiences expanded her toolkit and solidified her ability to adapt OT principles to diverse settings.

IMPACT FELT FAR AND WIDE

What makes Tatum's capstone truly stand out is the profound impact she had on everyone around her. Her site supervisor, Bryan Funk, shared: "She has a passion for what she is doing, and it shows in all interactions." From creating visual OT activity cards to advocating for interdisciplinary understanding, Tatum's thoughtful approach and infectious energy made a measurable difference. Her ability to pivot when plans shifted, to listen and learn from staff at every level, and to advocate for the value of OT even in passing conversational all helped to define her experience.

Tatum credits her success to the incredible support from Azalia Gonzalez, OTD, OTRL Faculty Clinical Specialist I at Western Michigan University, and the welcoming staff at Bethany. As her time at BCS comes to an end, her presence continues to echo through the halls, in staff routines, resident activities, and the push toward making occupational therapy a permanent part of the BCS team. Following the meaningful impact Dr. Johnson made during her capstone experience, Bryan Funk, Clinical Supervisor at Bethany Christian Services (BCS), championed the integration of occupational therapy into the organization. Thanks to his advocacy and the success initiated by Tatum, BCS has officially established and posted a permanent occupational therapy position, with the goal of continuing and expanding the positive outcomes already set in motion.

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT DR. JOHNSON'S PROJECT?

- [Here](#) is the full article on ScholarWorks
- [Here](#) is Tatum's Capstone Dissemination Video

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY STUDENT TRAINING GUIDE AT BETHANY CHRISTIAN SERVICES

Please review prior to treating residents and periodically as needed

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General

Includes Resident Schedule, Level description, Tips for treating at BCS

TAB 1

Quick Guides

Quick Guide for DBT, De-escalation, Physical Restraint, PREA, Suicide and Self-harm and AWOL

TAB 2

Sexual Abuse Awareness

Overview of Sexual Abuse Awareness at BCS

TAB 3

Residential Care - Ridgeview

Overview of Residential Care at Ridgeview Program

TAB 4

Contacts

Clinical Coordinator, Therapist, Nurse and Unit Staff Contacts

TAB 5

Student Resources

Scholarly articles, Supervisor Presentations, etc.
*Please add to this folder as appropriate

FOLDER

This training guide was assembled by Tatum Johnson, WMU Capstone student in Spring 2025

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY RESIDENT BINDER

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Staff-OT

communication form

Current level, weekly staff update, weekly OT update, questions

TAB 1

OT Evaluation

Includes OT assessments, goals, recommendations, and home exercise program

TAB 2

Safety Plan

Provides OT students with resident's current safety plan

TAB 3

This resident binder was assembled by Tatum Johnson, WMU Capstone student in Spring 2025