

Using the Kawa Model to support the discharge process

Kirsty Prochowski
and
Stephanie Nowell

Summarising an individual's life in a visually stimulating, easy to understand way so that handover of their care is as smooth as can be

The Kawa model gives a clear overview of the barriers and facilitators of occupational engagement so that an individual's occupational performance and participation can be examined.

Using the model when handing over to new care providers allows an individual's care needs to be presented and discussed in a easy to understand visual format.

What are the components of the Kawa Model?

Banks – Environment - an individual's social and physical environments

River flow- Life flow - Overall occupations and life flow.

Rocks – Barriers - Circumstances that block life flow and cause dysfunction.

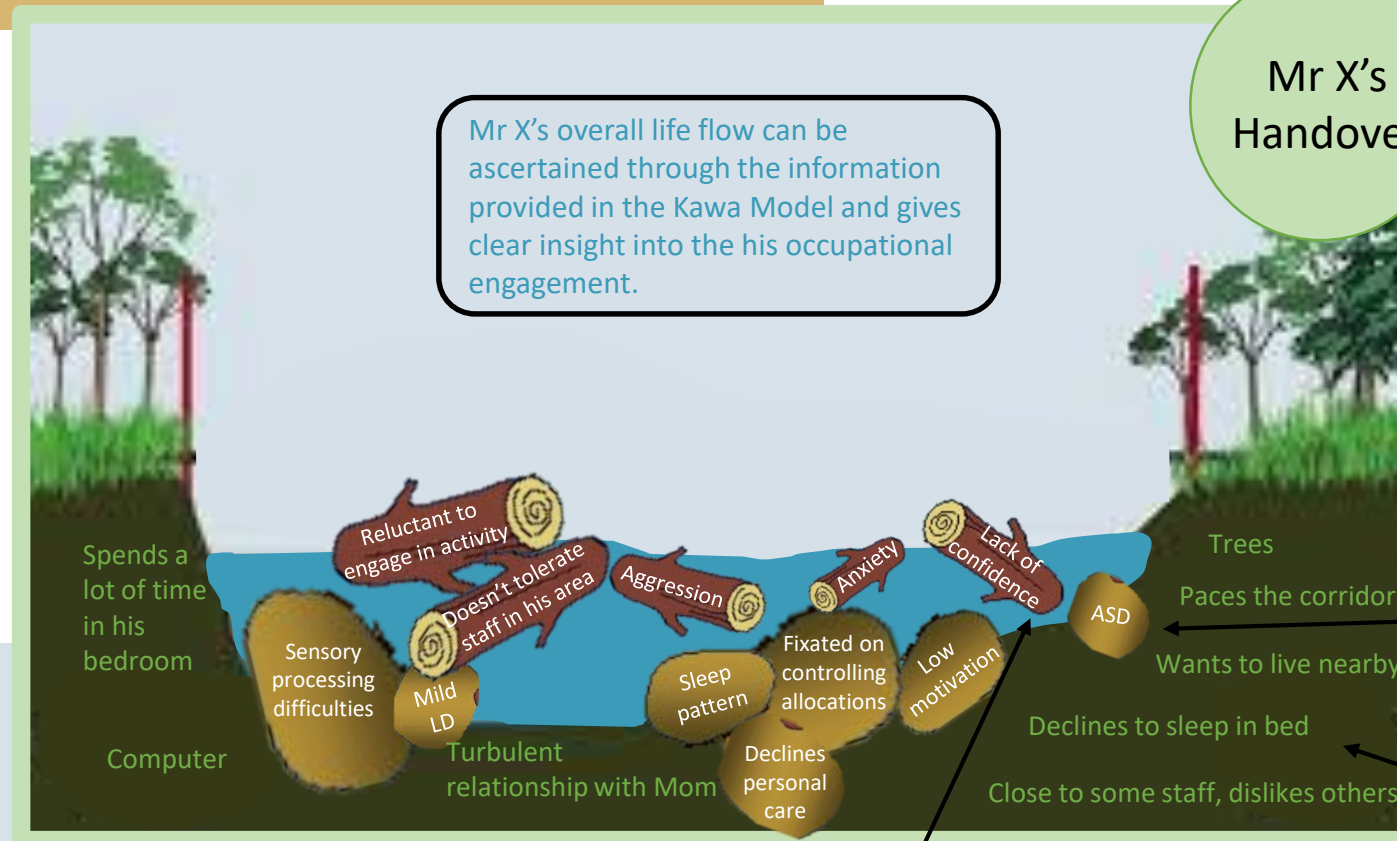
Driftwood – Personal assets/liabilities - They can act as a barrier to the river flow or can enhance river flow by "bumping the rocks out of the way."

Occupational Participation

- Mr X has low motivation to engage in new activities and his curiosity fluctuates
- Mr X is very motivated to engage in activities of choice – (Computer, football)- fixated?
- Trees are soothing at times, both anxiety reducing and triggering, reassurance needed
- Mr X makes his choices clear through his body language, vocal expression and actions
- Mr X's engagement is impacted when he often changes his mind about engaging due to anxiety. He sometimes declines meaningful activities in favour of using his computer
- Engages in own way – e.g. at breakfast club doesn't eat but instead talks to staff about trees
- Doesn't conform to social rules- Smearing, aggression: impacts engagement & relationships

Occupational Performance

- Mr X knows how to use equipment and understands processes eg. painting, bingo
- Mr X requires reminders to concentrate as he is often distracted by his fixations
- Mr X is able to carry out activities but not fully attend unless it's a preferred activity
- Mr X follows instructions & initiates steps
- Mr X maintains a consistent speed, however activity engagement is short
- Mr X's sleep pattern impacts his performance



Mr X's overall life flow can be ascertained through the information provided in the Kawa Model and gives clear insight into the his occupational engagement.

Mr X's
Handover

Discussing the barriers to occupation with the new care provider allows plans to be made to overcome some of these barriers in the new setting, increasing participation and performance.

Assessing the social and physical environment during the discharge process ensures that the individual is discharged to a placement which suits their needs and therefore a placement that is more likely to success at providing quality care going forward.

The individual's assets and liabilities provide insight into their levels of engagement and how this is affected by their personal circumstances.