Individuals with profound intellectual and multiple disabilities at work?! 
Activities in special day service centers in Germany

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Outline

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• Research questions
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Introduction

• Individuals with PIMD
• Participating in activities as essential component of quality of life
• Quality of life = interaction, experience of competence and self-determination (Sabo & Terfloth, 2011)
• Realizing work related activities for adults with PIMD
• Special day service centers in Germany
Research questions

• What are the goals and the content of the activities provided at the special day service centers?
• To what extent can the activities be classified as “high quality activities” based on the model of Sabo and Terfloth?
• To what extent can the activities be classified as “work related”?
Method

Setting:
• 4 special day service centers, 30 participants

Instrument:
• Diary (Zijlstra & Vlaskamp, 2005; modified),
  registering all activities provided in one exemplary week and a detailed description of one activity per day

Analysis:
• Codes and goals were related to quality of life and the concept of work
Results (1)

experience of self-efficacy

work

Number of times mentioned

Goals (see Table 3)

Main goals
Additional goals
Results (2)

![Bar chart showing percentage of time mentioned for different codes.](chart.png)

- **Codes (see Table 3)**
  - Eating and drinking
  - Motor activation
  - Communication
  - Work

Legend:
- Main codes
- Additional codes
Results (3)

Combinations of goals and codes:
• Work and work related activities (96% of the activities)
• Motor activation and stimulating motor functioning and therapy (91%)
• Work or “social“ goals and communication
• Experience of self-efficacy and work or therapy
Results (4)

Quality of life (Sabo & Terfloth, 2011):

- Communication and welcome/goodbye (21%), eating and drinking (17%), educating activities (9%), and work related activities (9%)
- Self-efficacy and work (31%), communication (13%), and motor activation (8%)
- Stimulation of self-determination and “social activities“
Results (5)

Concept of work

• “work related activities” as second most mentioned code (13% of the main codes), and “work” as the most ticked goal (27% of the main goals)
Discussion (1)

Quality of life (Sabo & Terfloth, 2011):
• eating and drinking as well as care were also seen as activities stimulating communication
• work and communication situations were used to enable individuals with PIMD to experience their competences
• more stimulation of self-determination in the future?!
Discussion (2)

Concept of work:
• in special day service centers in Germany, work related activities play a central role

High frequency of motor activation:
• multi-professional teams including educational professionals and therapists shape the daily activities in the groups
Discussion (3)

Limitations:
• small sample
• additional information about reliability and validity of the procedure is needed
• social desirability
• only perspective of the DSPs
Conclusion

• Participation in work related activities of individuals with PIMD is possible!
• Activities including communication, motor activation, and experience of self-efficacy = high quality work related activities
• Different types of special day service centers are needed, focusing on work related activities, education, and/or leisure activities
Thank you for your attention!