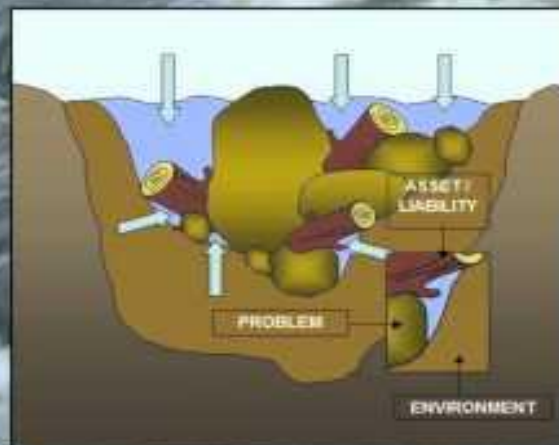


KAWA MODEL



Student Occupational Therapy Association
General Body Meeting #5
November 20th, 2017

Therapist explains elements in Kawa Model



What is the Kawa Model?

- Can be used as a frame of reference, practice model, or assessment tool in occupational therapy practice.
- Developed in 2006 by Dr. Michael Iwama, a professor and occupational therapist with a Canadian and Japanese background.
- “Kawa” in Japanese means river and this model uses a river as a means to depict one’s life journey and experiences.

Retrieved from <http://www.kawamodel.com/v1/index.php/about/>



Kawa Model

“The varying and chronological experience of life is like a river, flowing from the highlands down to the ocean. Along its meandering path, the quality and character of its flow will vary from place to place, from instance to instance. Occupational therapists try to enable, assist, restore, and maximize their client’s life flows.”

Symbols

- There are 4 main symbols (constructs) to this model:
 - River banks
 - River flow
 - Rocks
 - Driftwood
- However, constructs can be altered/added to fit the client's needs. Here are some examples of other constructs:
 - Fish (Orange tang)
 - Spaces between the rocks and driftwood
 - Sparkles

River Banks

- Used to describe an individual's
 - Environments
 - Social
 - Physical
 - Contexts
- Some examples include:
 - Where you live and/or work
 - Important people in your life
 - Culture
 - Family/friends



River Flow

- Overall occupations and life flow.
- How does your life flow?
 - Is it calm?
 - Or rocky?
 - Fast or slow?



Rocks

- Circumstances that block life flow and cause dysfunction. Situations/circumstances are hindering the flow of the river.
- These can include:
 - Fears
 - Disabilities/injury
 - Concerns
 - Barriers
 - Stressors in life
 - Money, relationships, school, etc.
- What are the sizes of these rocks? Some may be larger than others.



Driftwood

- Personal resources that can be assets or liabilities
 - Values
 - Personal characteristics
- Driftwood can be both positive and negative components to the river.
 - They can act as a barrier to the river flow
 - They can enhance river flow by “bumping the rocks out of the way.”

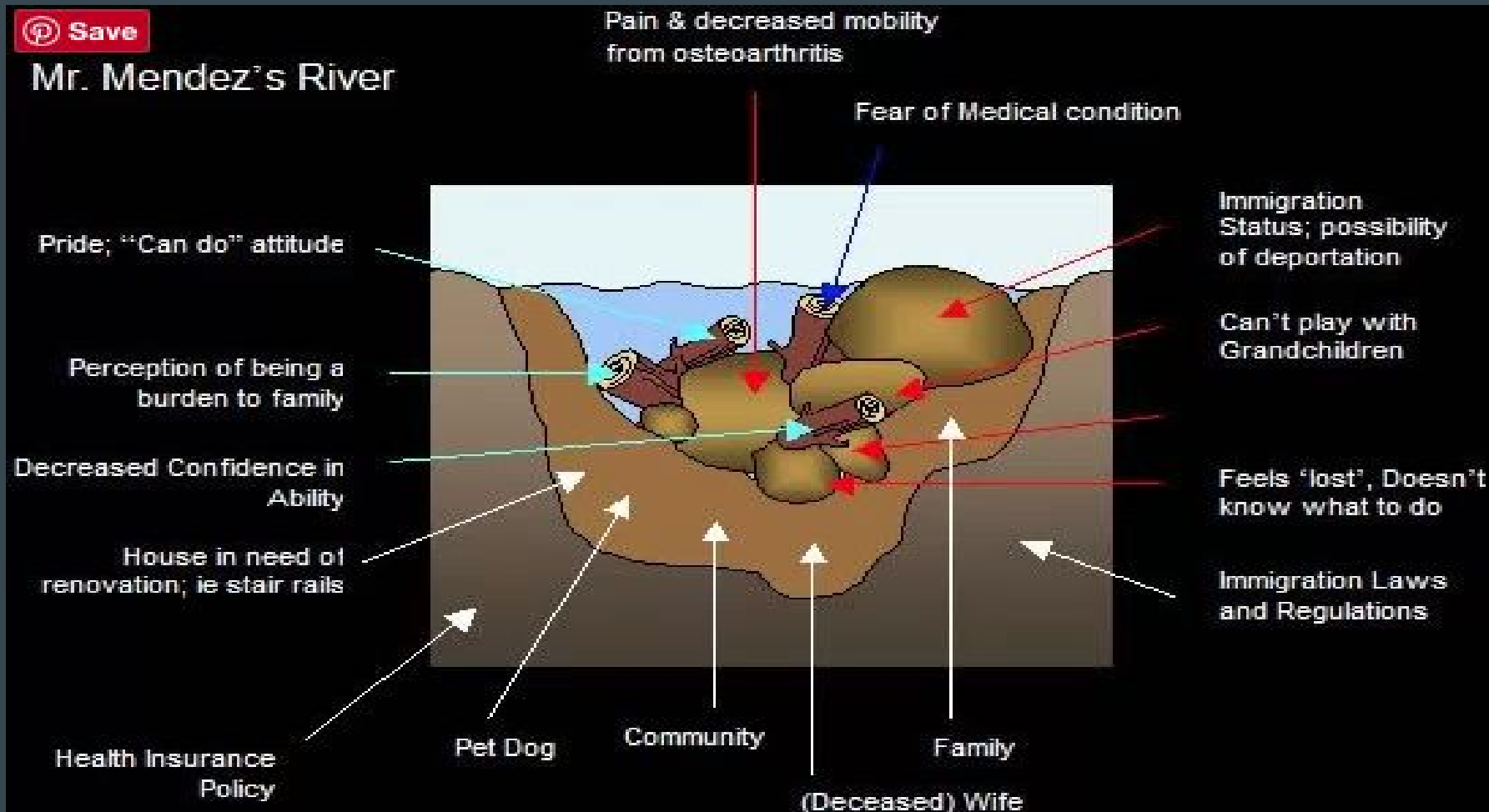


Orange Tang/ Sparkles

- Things that are going well in your life.
- Positive aspects of life.



Mr. Mendez's River





Michael Iwama

April 1 · 🌐

The OT river of Kean University flows beautifully!
— at 📍 AOTA Annual Conference.

BUILD YOUR RIVER!

Download the Kawa App! BTW: ITS FREE! :)

