

Research Question

How do cross-cultural adaptations promote cultural competency in pediatric OT assessment?

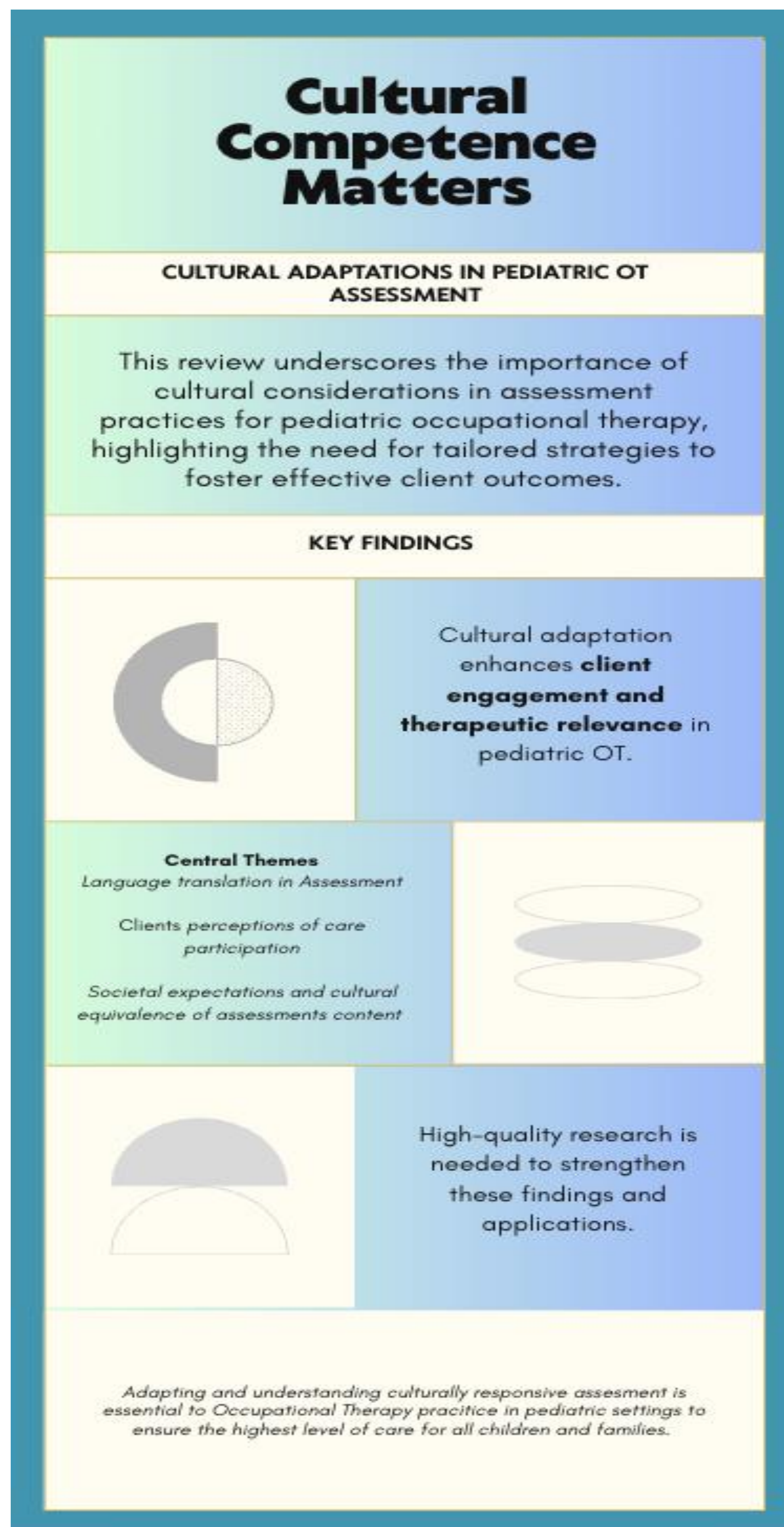


Figure 1. Cultural Competence Matters Canva poster

Introduction

- Cultural competency is essential in pediatric OT.
- Practitioners working with children and families from a range of cultural backgrounds.
- Culturally appropriate care can lead to better client engagement, family participation, and more accurate assessment results.
- Many assessments used in OT were developed based on western norms, which may not be applicable to families from other cultures and backgrounds (Reid & Chiu, 2011; Pfeifer et al., 2011).
- This review examined how changes in language, perceptions of care, family involvement, and consideration of societal expectations influence pediatric assessments and their effectiveness and relevance during OT practice.

Method

Protocol: Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA)

Databases searched: EBSCOhost - 38 Databases

Date of preliminary search: 5/15/2025

Search terms: (culture or cultural or ethnicity or identity or values) AND (occupational therapy or occupational therapist or occupational therapists or ot) AND pediatric assessment AND rehabilitation

Total number of articles located: 18

Inclusion Criteria: Peer-reviewed, published in English, and dated between 2021-2025.

Exclusion criteria: Included articles that were systematic reviews, scoping reviews, dissertations, and presentations.

Final number of articles included: 8

References and Resources



Reference Page



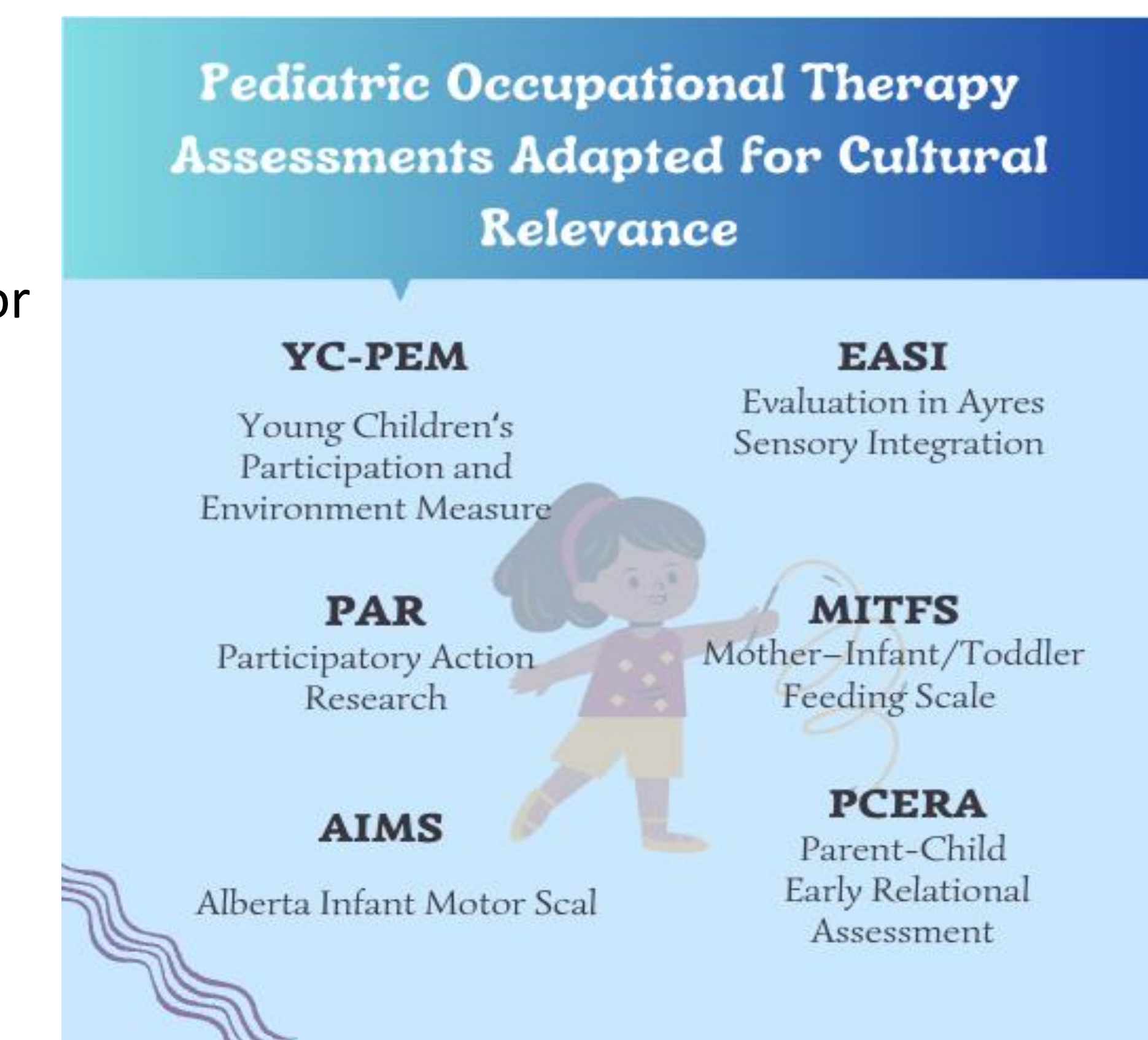
Systematic Review

Results

Three themes were paramount in the analysis of the eight studies per consensus of reviewers:

- **Efficacy of language translation,**
- **Perceptions of care and participation**
- **Societal expectations and impact on roles, rituals and routines.**

Figure 2: Pediatric Occupational Therapy Assessments Adapted for Cultural Relevance examined in this systematic review



Discussion

The findings suggest that cross-cultural adaptations in pediatric OT assessments elicit cultural competencies creating relatability, diversity, and continuity of care in Occupational Therapy domain and practice.

To deliver effective client-centered care, OTs must:

- Ensure accurate language translation for validity
- Include diverse family dynamics in assessments
- Understand roles, rituals, and routines across cultures.

More high-quality research is needed to strengthen evidence, refine adaptation methods and advance culturally competent pediatric OT services globally.

Conclusion

Cross-cultural adaptations of pediatric OT assessments increase cultural competence by bolstering relevance and inclusivity. Assessment adaptations in language translation, family centered practices and culturally responsive care create a client-centered approach that improves outcomes and honors previously underserved communities in practice.