

groups autonomy ethics participation
experts society potentials profession life world
science action occupation everyday life health
occupational therapy solutions
community organizations people agency well-being
quality of life individuals diversity

DVE

Deutscher Verband
Ergotherapie

Occupational therapy is a profession within the health, education, and social sectors that aims to enable people in all their diversity to exercise their right to meaningful occupation, to shape their everyday lives autonomously, and to participate in society.

As experts in occupation, occupational therapists work with and for people who have the desire or the need to change themselves, their actions, and their everyday lives and lifeworlds. To achieve this, occupational therapists utilize existing potentials and co-develop solutions together with individuals, groups, organizations, and within the community, in order to sustainably strengthen agency, participation, and quality of life.

The work of occupational therapists is based on ethical principles and scientific evidence, particularly from occupational therapy and occupational science. Occupational therapists recognize that health and well-being are closely linked to occupational engagement and the possibility for participation. For the purpose of the continuous improvement of services, they engage with social processes as well as societal, technological, and ecosystemic events and developments, and align their professional practice accordingly. (DVE 2025)