The WHEEL OF INDEPENDENCE™ Framework

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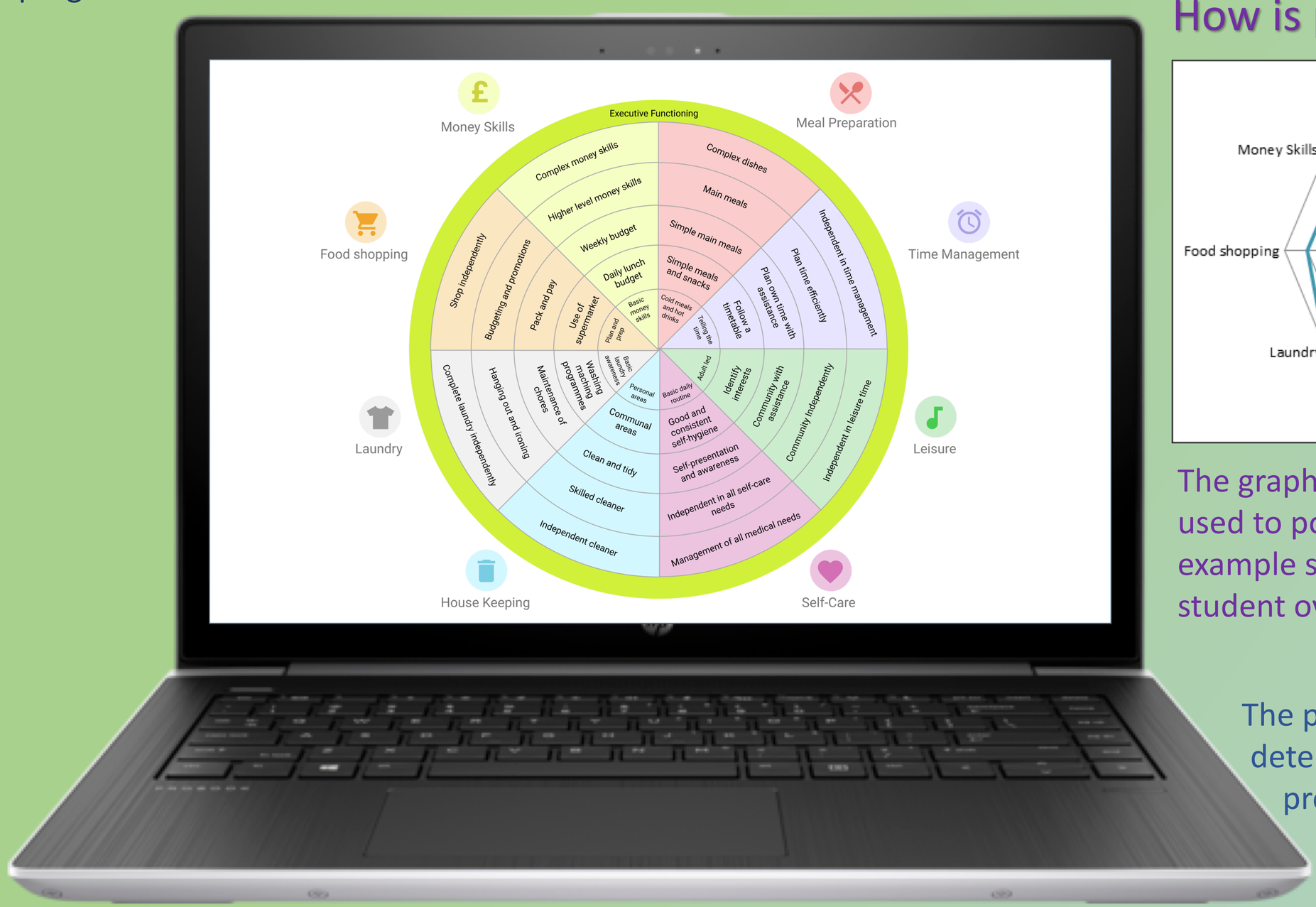
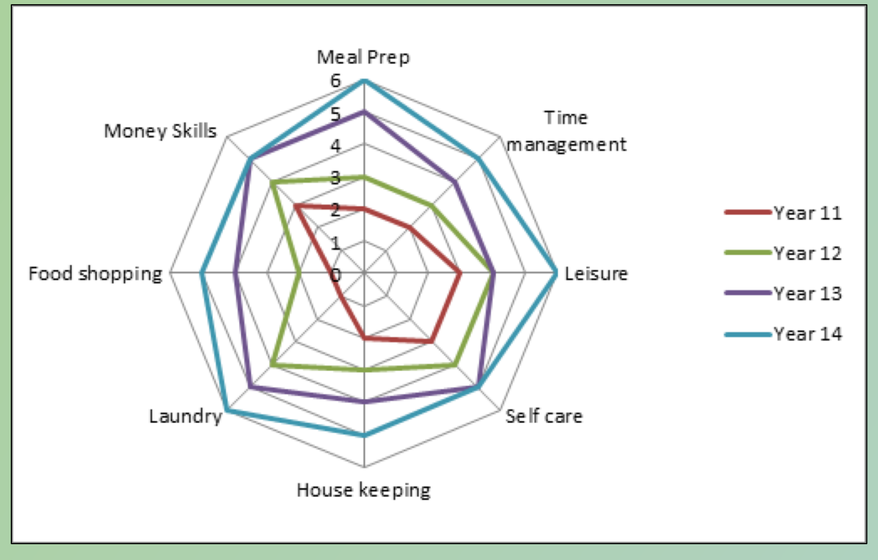
How does it work?

The WHEEL OF INDEPENDENCE™ Framework (WOI™) is an online outcome measurement tool and model for intervention planning. It encompasses eight areas involved in life skills and independent living. All areas are graded into five levels to enable students to develop through activities set to their individual levels of need. This allows staff and students to track progress in a visual format.



How is progress shown?



The graph above demonstrates the format used to portray yearly progress, the example shows the progress made by one student over 4 years.

Pilot Study

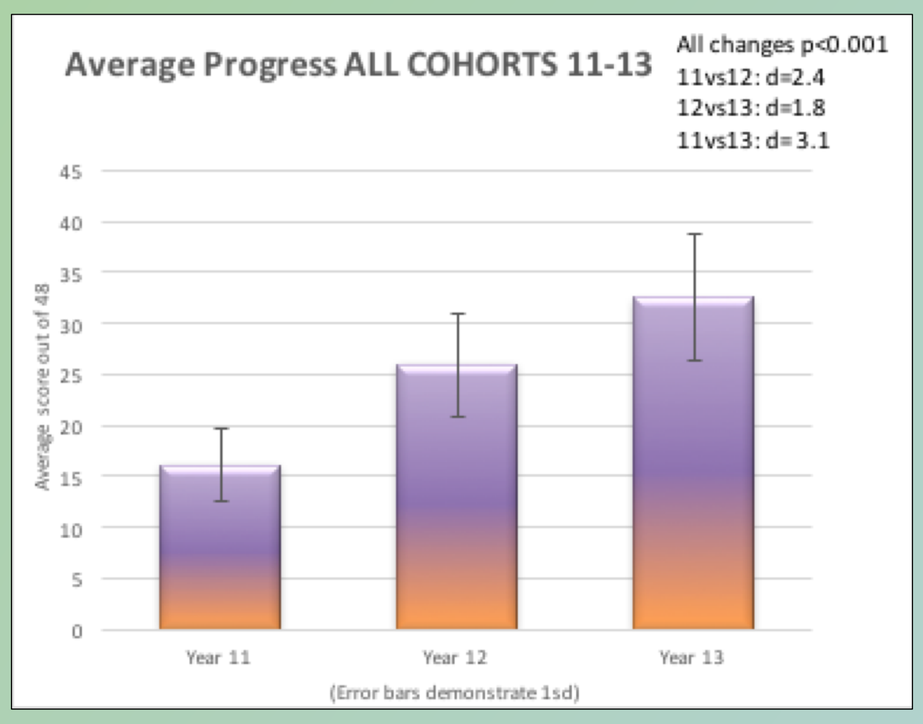
The pilot study reported here aimed to determine if the WOI™ could measure progress in life skills. The WOI™ was trialled in a specialist speech and language residential college with students aged 16-19. The WOI™ captures student progress in a numerical format, enabling tracking and data comparison, and provides a structured intervention plan. The visual elements of the model make it accessible to students, other professionals and families.

What was the therapy?

The students had one hour of functional life skills intervention per week during the academic year, as well as input during residential care time. Those students with difficulty mastering specific skill areas received additional support through 1:1 therapy.

What do the results show?

The results of this intervention show that on average, students made significant progress between years 11, 12 and 13, with large effect sizes. The intervention helped develop skills in functional money and time telling, cooking, travel, use of the community, home management, shopping skills and accessing leisure opportunities.



Conclusion

Using the WOI™ Framework allowed detailed planning and tracking of individual and group progress. The results showed that as a group, the students made significant progress in all areas from age 16-19. Wider use of this model could help more young people develop essential life skills to help them live a meaningful and successful way of life.

Could your school or college use the WOI™?

The WHEEL OF INDEPENDENCE™ Framework is available in on online tool and can be purchased for use by schools and colleges. For more information please visit the website https://www.moorhouse.surrey.sch.uk/the-wheel-of-independence-framework or email woiinfo@moorhouseschool.co.uk

Moor House School & College

Moor House is an outstanding school and college and internationally recognized centre of excellence, leading in education and research for children with Developmental Language Disorder.