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Understanding the Influence of Social Role Fulfillment Opportunities on Quality of Life for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

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Oral Presentation O4.2

**UNDERSTANDING THE INFLUENCE OF SOCIAL ROLE
FULFILLMENT OPPORTUNITIES ON QUALITY OF LIFE FOR
INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

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The present study investigated the influence of social role opportunities on quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities (DD). Literature suggests that without proper social inclusion, or the opportunity to participate in one's community, one's quality of life will not reach its highest potential (Reinders & Schalock, 2014). Individuals with DD are at a disadvantage because they lack appropriate social networks needed to obtain role opportunities. While the average network size of people without DD is 150 (Condeluci, et al., 2004), people with DD have an average of 22 people in their network (Forrester-Jones, et al., 2006). With so few people within their social network, access to social role opportunities is scarce for this population. The present study analyzed the effects of newly created social role opportunities on the quality of life for a small group of individuals with DD. Pre-test/post-test interviews were administered and a 6 week intervention was implemented with participants of a local social group in order to assess quality of life.