Occupational therapists are not likely to find these research findings surprising. We can use our current professional theories and models to explain many of these interactions and complexities. For example, we can use the PEO Model (Law et al., 1996) to demonstrate how the interactions between various factors, as identified in the studies described previously, can result in a positive or negative outcome. Figure 1-4 demonstrates how the PEO Model was used in a qualitative study to depict the transition process of youth with physical disabilities (Stewart et al., 2001). This study found that many adolescents with disabilities and their parents felt that they were “falling off a cliff” (p. 12) when they graduated from high school and were discharged from pediatric services.

![Figure 1-4](image)

Figure 1-4. Application of the PEO Model for transition to adulthood for youth with disabilities. (Reprinted with permission from Stewart, D., Law, M., Rosenbaum, P., & Willms, D. [2001]. A qualitative study of the transition to adulthood for youth with disabilities. Physical and Occupational Therapy in Paediatrics, 21[4], 3-22.)