

Do motor skill perceptions of children, parents and teachers predict children's motor skill performance?

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Introduction: One aspect of a child's development that occupational therapists focus on is the motor skills that impact on a child's ability to complete age-appropriate tasks. Recent figures estimate the prevalence of motor skill dysfunction in children is between 15-20%. Effective, valid, reliable, and appropriate assessment of children's motor skill abilities is therefore of utmost importance. Additionally important is the use of a client-centred approach and consideration of the perspectives of children, parents, and teachers.

Objective: To determine if there is a significant association between children's performance on a standardised motor skills assessment with the self-report perspectives of the children, parents and teachers.

Method: The study sample consisted of 55 children (aged 8-12 years), the children's parents and classroom teachers, who completed a set of self-report questionnaires about the children's motor skill abilities. Children completed the *Physical Self-Description Questionnaire* and the *Self-Perception Profile for Children*. Parents completed the *Developmental Profile III* and the *Developmental Coordination Disorder Questionnaire*. The child's classroom teacher also completed the *Developmental Coordination Disorder Questionnaire* and the *Teacher's Rating Scale of Child's Actual Behaviour*. Questionnaire results were compared to the children's objective motor performance scores from the *Bruininks-Oseretsky Test of Motor Proficiency, Second Edition*.

Results: Demographic data analyses, Spearman's Rho correlations and multi-linear regressions were computed. The regression results indicate that children's self-report were most predictive of the children's motor skill performance on the standardised objective motor skills assessment, and that children are reliable and accurate reporters of their motor skills. Children's gross motor skills are more easily reported and predictive of children's motor skill performance than children's fine motor skills.

Conclusion & Contribution to Occupational Therapy Practice & Evidence Base: The findings of this study provide preliminary evidence that therapists should consider using self-report measures to evaluate children's motor skills rather than traditional performance based tests. These results are important to clinical best practice by supporting the top-down, client-centred approach to the assessment of children's motor skills.