

1555

## **Trends in treating children with handwriting difficulties**

Lalit Shah

*Misericordia University, Dallas, Pennsylvania, United States*

### **Introduction:**

Handwriting difficulties are one of the most frequent reasons for referral to school-based

occupational therapy. Several studies have investigated the effectiveness of various interventions used by occupational therapists to help children with handwriting problems (Denton, Cope & Moser 2006; Peterson & Nelson 2003). However, there are no published studies describing the trends in treating children with handwriting difficulties.

### **Objectives:**

The purpose of this research study was to find out what were the current trends for interventions strategies used by pediatric occupational therapists to improve handwriting in children.

### **Methods:**

This research involved a mail survey to 500 pediatric occupational therapy practitioners. Data collected were analyzed using computer based statistical program.

### **Results and Practice Implications:**

This study provided information on practice trends in treating handwriting problems. Some of the findings include: the most frequent reasons for requesting occupational therapy services for handwriting were for functional written communication and visual perceptual difficulties. The two most frequently chosen intervention strategies were fine motor and visual motor activities. The most frequently used programs (commercially available) were "Handwriting Without Tears" and "Loops and Other Groups".

### **Conclusions:**

Occupational therapists will be able to use this information to develop intervention strategies for handwriting difficulties based on the most current clinical practice trends.