

CORRELATION BETWEEN MANUAL DEXTERITY AND WRITTEN IN CHILDREN: PILOT STUDY

Magalhães Livia de Castro, Rezende Márcia Bastos, Cardoso Ana Amélia, Galvão Beatriz Arruda Pereira, Miranda Fernanda Mara Oliveira
Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte, Brazil

Introduction: The writing is a very commented subject, though little investigated in the education environments and for health' professionals wrapped with the education in Brazil. To understand the factors that could influence its performance and know the mechanisms used in the initial years of the schooling helps in the prevention, identification and treatment of possible difficulties. Reviewing the literature, it is noticed that the Brazilian contributions in this area are very small.

Objective: To examine the relation between legibility of writing and manual dexterity in children of 1st and 2nd grades of elementary school.

Método: Forty children, divided in 04 grupos - 1st grade good letter; 1st grade worse letter; 2nd grade good letter and 2nd grade worse letter - were valued with The Assessment of Motor Coordination and Dexterity (AMCD), that is being created at Occupational Therapy Department in UFMG, and the Developmental Test of Visual-Motor Integration. The classification of the legibility was carried out, independently, by two educators with vast experience; there were included in the study only the children whose classification was consistent between them.

Results: Two children were excluded of the sample due to absence of agreement between the classifications of legibility carried out by the educators. When the performance of groups 1 and 2 were compared, The Mann-Whitney Test pointed to significant differences in 2 items of the AMCD and in the VMI; and between groups 3 and 4, the statistical test pointed to significant differences only in 1 item of the AMCD.

Conclusion: The results pointed to the writing is a complex activity, and the different factors - perceptual, sensory, motor, cognitive and social - that influence this activity are not still explained well.

Contribution to the practice/evidence base of occupational therapy: Another researchs about the factors that can influence the writing, including children with problems in the performance of this activity, are essential for the structuring of reliable evaluations and efficient programs of intervention for improvement of the school performance of Brazilian children.