Effects of a cognitive treatment on occupational performance and social participation of brazilian children with developmental coordination disorder.

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Introduction: Children with Developmental Coordination Disorder (DCD) have motor problems and difficulties to perform daily tasks. They're often called "clumsy" and some studies reported situations of isolation interfering in social participation. Many approaches are used to treat these children. Recently a cognitive, client-centred, top-down approach has emerged: the Cognitive Orientation to Daily Occupational Performance(CO-OP). Objectives: The aim of this study was to examine the effects of CO-OP when applied to brazilian children with DCD. This research also investigated social participation after treatment and long term effects . Methods: A quasi-experimental design research in which ten children with 6 to 12 years old participated. The intervention sessions were twice a week, when the children learned three tasks of their choice based on CO-OP protocol. Children were assessed before and after treatment and their parents were interviewed about generalization and transfer of knowledge. They also were asked about their children's social participation after CO-OP. Results: The results indicated that CO-OP can be effective, because children improved their occupational performance and social participation .It was added one session to the original protocol. Generalization and transfer of knowledge were also assessed after three months without treatment. Conclusion: Children engaged on their own treatment to learn tasks of their choice. It was necessary to add one session to the original protocol.CO-OP is an effective intervention approach to be used by occupational therapists in Brazil. Contribution to the practice/evidence base of occupational therapy: It is very important to use a client-centred and brief intervention in Brazil, especially because of the requirements made by health insurances.