

The performance of five-year-old children from Mangaung Metro on ten subtests of J. Ayres based Clinical Observations

Chané Potgieter, Elize Janse van Rensburg, Annemarie van Jaarsveld, Cornel van Rooyen

University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa

Introduction: Pediatric occupational therapists (OTs) use the original Ayres' Clinical Observations (ACOs) to support findings of the Sensory Integration and Praxis Tests when assessing for possible sensory integration dysfunctions. In under-resourced communities, the ACOs are often relied on for assessment as funding is not available for the use of standardised tests. Limited research has however been done on the use of the ACOs on South-African (SAn) children, describing age-related performance. The South African Institute for Sensory Integration is in the process of finalising a revised edition of the ACO's and the revised edition were made available for this research.

Objectives: This study aimed to describe the measurable and observable characteristics of five-year-old SAn children's performance on ten of the revised ACO subtests. This research is focusing on the performance of five-year-old SAn children, enrolled in lower and middle to high socioeconomic schools in Mangaung, Free State.

Methods: A quantitative, descriptive observational study design was used. Seven public pre-schools were selected through stratified random sampling. Hundred and twenty typically developing children were included in the study. Children were assessed individually with the revised ACOs instrument. Video recordings were made to allow for detailed analysis.

Practice Implications: The proposed study will provide OT's with the typical performance of a five-year-old child on the ACOs, ensuring more detailed and accurate assessment, resulting in more effective intervention.

Conclusion: With the original ACO's providing broad guidelines regarding expected observations, this study aims at providing detailed information regarding specific expected performance of five-year olds.