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## **The validity and reliability of visual perceptual standardised tests in children from the Gauteng Province, South Africa**

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**Introduction:** Occupational therapists routinely make use of the Test of Visual Perceptual Skills - Third Edition (TVPS-3), the Developmental Test of Visual Perception - Third Edition (DTVP-3) and the Developmental Test of Visual-Motor integration - Six Edition (Beery VMI-6) to determine visual perception and visual-motor integration (VMI) dysfunction.

**Objectives:** To determine the validity, discriminative validity, concurrent validity, clinical accuracy (sensitivity and specificity) and reliability of the TVPS-3, DTVP-3 and Beery VMI-6 for a sample of learners, aged six to nine years, from the Gauteng Province, South Africa.

**Method:** A quantitative, cross-sectional, comparative design was utilised. The study sample consisted of Group A made up of 44 children with a specific learning disability attending a School for Learning Support (LSEN) school and Group B which consisted of 48 children attending a mainstream school.

**Results:** The scores for the typical children attending a mainstream school fell within the norms reported for children in the USA for all three tests. The DTVP-3, TVPS-3 and Beery VMI-6 were found to discriminate between children with and without a specific learning disability. All three assessments were found to have low levels of sensitivity, however were found to exhibit adequate levels of reliability. With the exception of the visual closure subtest on the TVPS-3 and DTVP-3, the tests cannot be used interchangeably.

**Conclusion:** The DTVP-3, TVPS-3 and Beery VMI-6 are suitable for use with South African children from middle socio-economic backgrounds and can be used to identify visual perceptual and VMI dysfunction.