

ORAL: Wood Motor Success Screening Tool: An Authentic Motor Skill Assessment Tool for Preschool Children

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Objective: Several fundamental movement skill assessments are available to evaluate children's motor competency (MC). The choice of assessment tool depends largely on; purpose of assessment, accuracy, user friendliness, administration time, and quality of the assessment. The Wood Motor Success Screening Tool (WMSST) (Wood, 1998) was created by a specialist physical education teacher to assess children's motor ability. Our aim was to find and investigate a tool that would allow physical education teachers to assess motor skills of preschool aged children (3-5 years old) effectively and efficiently in order to provide timely feedback, individualized instruction and interventions. **Method:** MC was assessed with the 12 items via the WMSST. Test item categories included: Fine Motor, Body Imagery, Vestibular/Static Balance, Dynamic Balance, Bilateral Integration and Eye Hand Coordination. A total of 48 preschool children (46% girls) (mean age: 4.45 years \pm 1.3) were assessed. **Results:** Analysis of the data illustrated no statistically significant differences across all test items between boys and girl's actual MC ($p > 0.05$). The girls achieved higher overall mean scores across all test items excluding eye hand coordination. **Implication:** The WMSST tool was used as the test item categories aligned to the focus of a movement education program for the preschool students. This valid instrument, however, requires modernizing to ensure all test items continue to provide a comprehensive evaluation of preschool aged children's MC.