

3 Practical Takeaways



Handwriting Assessment and Intervention Recommendations for Children with DCD

From Barnett, A. L., & Prunty, M. (2021). Handwriting difficulties in developmental coordination disorder (DCD). *Current Developmental Disorders Reports*, 8(1), 6-14.

1 Multiple areas affect writing legibility & speed. Assess them!

- Use tests to measure motivation to engage in writing (e.g., HPSQ, HPSQ-C), legibility across different writing tasks (e.g., HLS), and speed (e.g., HPSQ, HPSQ-C, DASH)
- Look into cognitive and linguistic variables (e.g., oral vs. written text production)
- Evidence is lacking in use of VM/VP tests to understand handwriting in DCD

2 Apply activity- & participation-oriented interventions

- CO-OP to encourage children to pay attention to the features of their writing, and use of self-evaluation/guided discovery to problem-solve & improve performance
- Adapt and control the demands of the task throughout the learning process

3 Improvement takes time...at least 20 practice sessions

- Work with teachers, parents & caregivers to “support the child in developing consistent strategies for writing which are positively reinforced and supported”
- Practice sessions should be at least 10 minutes, 3-5 times a week

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