

3 Practical Takeaways



Developmental progression of hand use in children with unilateral cerebral palsy

From Eliasson, A. C., Nordstrand, L., Backheden, M., & Holmefur, M. (2022). Longitudinal development of hand use in children with unilateral spastic cerebral palsy from 18 months to 18 years. *Developmental Medicine & Child Neurology*.

1 Hand use develops to different limits and at different rates depending on the MACS Level of the child

- This study provides developmental trajectory charts for MACS Levels I, II, and III to inform your decision-making (n=171)
- Hand use of children at MACS Level I develops to a higher limit and at a shorter time period than those at MACS Levels II and III

2 Bimanual performance was stable from ages ~7-18 years

- Good news! Meaningful hand use learned in earlier years can be maintained

3 This stability supports a focus on “goal-directed training and participation interventions”

- Support children to generalize hand use for meaningful tasks and contexts

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