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**Title:**

Intervention and support in DCD: from research to practice

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**Thematic 1**: comorbidity

**Thematic 2**: intervention or management

**Abstract (2500 characters max)**

This project originates from our intervention studies, our current work examining children with DCD and the effects of associated difficulties over time, and work in the sporting arena notably “the aggregation of marginal gains”. Studies have shown that some children with DCD, with or without intervention, improve and sustain their motor performance, but it has been difficult to predict which children do this.

Many children with DCD have associated difficulties of attention, language, social interaction and learning. However, few studies have examined the nature of their interaction and effect on outcomes over time. This paper firstly examines profiles of children with DCD with and without associated characteristics aged 8-16 years in relation to participation in functional outcomes over time. Secondly, implications for intervention are made based upon the dynamic variables noted.

**Methods**

Children with DCD are identified according to DSM V. Assessment measures include the MABC2 to measure motor proficiency; DCDQ to assess the impact of motor ability on daily activities; CSAPPA to measure the children’s enjoyment of physical activity; CCC2 to indicate any pragmatic or other language difficulties. Children are monitored and assessed over a 24 month period with comparisons made between those with DCD, those with DCD plus associated characteristics and a group of typically developing peers. Some children, their parents and teachers are interviewed to provide case studies showing the nature of change.

**Results**

Four data points over two years are being analysed and the first two data points show the motor proficiency pattern and impact on participation, function and enjoyment for children with DCD and those with DCD plus associated characteristics and their typically developing peers. Case studies of children are presented identifying those that improve, those that remain the same and those that deteriorate, together with the dynamic variables affecting these outcomes.

**Discussion**

Intervention should recognize the total resources the child brings to the movement situation. We recommend an ecological perspective employing the concept of the aggregation of marginal gains, whereby several targeted areas in a child’s life are slightly modified by different individuals to improve their function in activities of daily living. The totality of these marginal gains leads to an overall improvement in the child’s participation and performance as illustrated in the case studies.

**Key words: (5 max)**

DCD, associated characteristics, change, intervention