

functioning. Additionally, this knowledge can be useful for providing support to families.

Keywords: child development, life skills, risk factors

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CHILDREN WITH LOWER URINARY TRACT SYMPTOMS SHOW DEFICITS IN BALL MOTOR SKILLS

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Background: Lower urinary tract symptoms (LUTS) can lead to behavioral, neuromotor, and psychological changes, as school-aged children, fearing an episode of urinary incontinence, often avoid common activities for their age group, such as ball games. The lack of such activities may be related to delays in the acquisition of motor skills, as the child is not exposed to stimuli that promotes this development.

Objectives: To compare ball-handling skills in children with and without LUTS.

Methods: This is a cross-sectional and observational study conducted with schoolchildren aged 5 to 11 years old, of both sexes, who either presented or did not present LUTS. Neurodivergent children and those who had undergone amputations were excluded. Two questionnaires were administered: the Dysfunctional Voiding Symptom Score (DVSS), used to screen for urinary symptoms and divide participants into groups with and without symptoms, and a sample characterization questionnaire, which included questions such as age, sex, skin color, weight and height. Gross motor skills were assessed using the Test of Gross Motor Development-3 (TGMD-3), with a specific focus on ball skills, which are scored on a scale of 0 to 54 points. The assessed skills included: striking a ball with two hands, striking a ball with one hand, bouncing a ball, catching a ball with two hands, kicking a ball, overhand throwing, and underhand throwing. Data were analyzed descriptively and using an independent t-test. The groups were compared in terms of sex, skin color, and categorical BMI using chi-square or Fisher's exact tests. All analyses were performed using SPSS version 26.

Results: A total of 77 children were evaluated, of whom 54.55% did not have LUTS and 38.96% had LUTS. Both groups were homogeneous in terms of age, sex, and skin color ($p < 0.05$). BMI also showed no significant difference between the groups ($p = 0.922$). Regarding ball skills, children without LUTS had a mean score of 41.09 ± 4.89 points, while those with LUTS had a mean score of 32.00 ± 5.61 points ($p < 0.001$). For all seven skills assessed, children with LUTS scored lower compared to children without LUTS.

Conclusion: The findings indicate that children with LUTS perform significantly worse in ball-handling skills compared to children without LUTS. These results suggest that motor deficits may be associated with the presence of LUTS, highlighting the importance of assessing and monitoring the motor development of these children.

Implications: The results reinforce the need for interventions that go beyond the treatment of urinary symptoms and promote the

improvement of motor skills in children with LUTS. Physical therapists should include specific approaches for the development of ball-handling skills in the context of pediatric rehabilitation. Collaboration among physical therapists, physical educators, and other healthcare professionals is essential to prevent and detect motor deficits early in these children, aiming to minimize long-term functional impacts.

Keywords: Child, Motor skills, Physical therapy specialty

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PARENTS AND CHILDREN IN FRONT OF SCREENS: IS THERE A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THEIR USAGE TIMES?

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Background: The use of digital media devices has become increasingly common among preschool children, establishing itself as a new habit during a critical phase of child development. Studies suggest that parents' behaviors regarding the use of these devices can influence their children's practices. Therefore, understanding this emerging behavioral reality is crucial for the effective implementation of interventions and public policies.

Objectives: This research aimed to investigate whether there is a relationship between parents' daily screen time and the daily screen time of preschool children attending public daycare centers.

Methods: This is a cross-sectional, observational, quantitative study, which is part of a randomized clinical trial approved by the Research Ethics Committee, focusing on the influence of media on child development. Data were collected using a questionnaire developed by the authors regarding media use at home, with questions answered by the mother, father, or guardian. The questionnaire covered topics such as time and mode of use, devices used, the age at which the child first encountered each device, and biological and socioeconomic aspects. Children aged 24 to 42 months from two Municipal Early Childhood Education Centers, whose parents signed the Free and Informed Consent Form, were included. For statistical analysis purposes, the Spearman correlation test was applied to investigate the relationship between the variables and, subsequently, a simple linear regression analysis was performed to assess the influence of parents' screen time on children's screen time.

Results: The sample consisted of 70 children and their respective parents/guardians, with a mean age of 33 months and no gender predominance. All children had exposure to media devices, spending an average of 160 minutes per day in front of screens. Regarding the guardians, more than 90% of the questionnaires were completed by mothers, who spent an average of 350 minutes per day using screens. A moderate correlation was found between children's screen time and parents' screen time ($p < 0.00$; $r_s = 0.37$). Maternal screen time accounted for 12.4% of the variation in children's screen time ($R^2 = 0.124$), indicating that parents' screen time influences children's screen use behaviors at home.