

week, 40-50 min/), composed of choreographies that explored the movements used during the ADLs. The evaluations were carried out by two independent and trained researchers during the pre-intervention, post-intervention, and one month after the end of the research (follow-up). Comparison analyzes were performed using the SPSS® software, version 22.0 and using the Shapiro wilk test. The significance level adopted for this study was $p < 0.05$.

Results: 99 participants were screened for eligibility and 28 were selected (EG $n=14$; GC $n=14$). During the intervention, there were no significant differences for the intergroup comparison, in all PEDICAT domains ($p > 0.05$). However, there were significant differences during the intragroup comparison in the pre/post-intervention for the EG, in the Activity of Daily Living domain: $p=0.00$; $CI= -4.57$ to -2.13 . And in the pre-intervention/follow-up comparison: $p= 0.00$, $CI=-3.87$ to -1.27 .

Conclusion: Therefore, it is concluded that dance therapy can positively impact the performance of children with autism in carrying out activities of daily living. However, there were no effects on other aspects of functionality. Thus, future research with a higher number of sessions are suggested, since these were considered limiting factors for the work.

Implications: The study of therapies focused on the participation and creativity of children with ASD can contribute to the improvement of integrated, inclusive, and multidisciplinary interventions for this public that is rarely addressed in the physiotherapeutic field.

Keywords: Personal Autonomy, Dance Therapy, Autism Spectrum Disorder

Conflict of interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE FREQUENCY AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN WITH MYELOMENINGOCELE – PRELIMINARY DATA

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Background: Participation is defined as frequency (measured by attendance and/or variety or diversity of activities) and involvement (participation experience including engagement, motivation, persistence, social connection and affection) in all life situations, and is seen as an essential condition for the development of the child. Children with myelomeningocele have several functional limitations that can lead to restriction of participation. Improving these children's participation requires knowledge about what factors may influence a child's ability to participate in activities of their choice.

Objective: To verify whether factors such as age, mobility performance, access to assistive technology equipment and the presence of environmental facilitators are associated with the frequency and involvement of young children with myelomeningocele participation at home, daycare/preschool and in the community.

Methods: A cross-sectional observational study was carried out with children diagnosed with myelomeningocele, between 6 months and 5 years of age. The dependent variables were Frequency and involvement in participation at home, day care/preschool and in the community, as measured by The Young Children's Participation Environment Measure - YC-PEM. The independent variables were age and access to assistive technology equipment collected through interviews with parents and caregivers, mobility performance measured by the questionnaire: Pediatric Assessment of Disability Inventory – Computerized Adaptive Testing (PEDICAT), and environmental facilitators measured by YC-PEM. Data were analyzed using SPSS version 22.0. To verify the associations between age, mobility performance, access to assistive technology equipment and the presence of environmental facilitators with the frequency and involvement of participation, Spearman's correlation was performed, with a significance level of 5%.

Results: Sixty-five children and their families (mean age 27.91 (± 17.36) months) participated in the study. The presence of environmental facilitators at home increased the child's involvement at home ($r=0.30$, $p=0.01$). In the daycare/preschool setting, a significant positive association was found between age ($r=0.50$, $p<0.0001$; $r=0.55$, $p<0.0001$), mobility performance ($r= 0.35$, $p=0.003$; $r=0.37$, $p=0.002$) and the presence of environmental facilitators in daycare/preschool ($r=0.95$, $p<0.0001$; $r=0.98$, $p <0.0001$), with frequency and involvement, respectively. However, there was a negative association between having access to assistive technology equipment and attendance ($r=-0.32$, $p=0.008$) and participation involvement ($r=-0.36$, $p=0.03$) in daycare/preschool. In relation to the community environment, factors such as age ($r=0.40$, $p=0.001$), mobility performance ($r=0.26$, $p=0.03$), and the presence of environmental facilitators ($r=0.35$, $p=0.003$) correlated positively with community engagement.

Conclusion: Preliminary results indicated that the presence of environmental facilitators increases the participation involvement of children with myelomeningocele in all environments. Older and more mobile children are more involved in daycare/preschool and in the community. However, having access to assistive technology equipment that facilitates mobility worsens the frequency and involvement of participation in the daycare/preschool environment.

Implications: These findings highlight the role of the environment for the participation of children with myelomeningocele in different contexts, pointing to the need for more facilitators and environmental changes.

Keywords: Spina bifida, Participation, Mobility

Conflict of interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN WITH MYELOMENINGOCELE

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Background: Myelomeningocele is the most frequent malformation of spina bifida and is characterized by muscle weakness or paralysis