

Assisting Hand Assessment Certification Course

Evidence-based assessment for children with cerebral palsy

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Assisting Hand Assessment (AHA) is a Rasch-based instrument that measures and describes the effectiveness with which a child who has unilateral disability makes use of their affected hand (assisting hand) during bimanual activities. The AHA is a standardised criterion-referenced test that is valid, reliable and sensitive to change. The test is intended for children with unilateral cerebral palsy and brachial plexus injuries aged between 18 months and 12 years, and a younger version is under development.

The course covers reliable administration of the AHA assessment and is organised in two phases. First, a 2½-day training course is given including information about the test construct, testing procedure and scoring practice on a range of children from videos. A manual with detailed scoring criteria and a computer based scoring form is provided. It also includes demonstrations about how the play sessions should be performed and the different test materials that are used depending on the age of the child. The course concludes with looking at intervention planning once an AHA assessment has been completed. The second part of the certification process occurs after the workshop. To achieve certification, the participant is to complete eight calibration cases and get satisfactory results. Some of these from videotapes distributed at the course, and some self-produced AHA play sessions. Individual feedback of these cases is provided. Each course participant will receive individual detailed feedback. This whole procedure should be completed within three months and leads to rater certification. To be able to perform the self-produced AHA assessment, you will need access to an AHA test kit and children with unilateral upper limb impairment. These can be ordered at the course or later during the certification procedure.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to:

- Demonstrate the set up, conduct and video record an Assisting Hand Assessment session.
- Produce reliable scores according to the criteria in the manual.
- Verbalize the concept and construct of the test and its psychometric properties.
- Interpret and communicate the outcome of the test.

INSTRUCTORS

Dr Brian Hoare (OT, CPteaching, Melbourne), Melinda Lewis (OT, Lacy Cilento Hospital, Brisbane).

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Physical and Occupational Therapists