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Mini-Assisting Hand Assessment Certification Course

Evidence-based assessment for children with cerebral palsy

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A new version of the Assisting Hand Assessment Course (AHA) has been developed for young children with unilateral cerebral palsy (CP) aged 8 to 18 months called the Mini-Assisting Hand Assessment (Mini AHA). Like the AHA, this course involves a video recorded play session using carefully selected toys that provoke bimanual hand use. Twenty object related actions of the affected are then scored on a 4 point rating scale. The course teaches the reliable use of the Mini-Assisting Hand version 1.0 in two steps. The first step involves a two day workshop where participants will learn about the constructs underlying the mini-AHA, test procedures including the new play session and test items and will practice test scoring. A Mini-AHA manual with detailed scoring criteria and a computer based scoring form will be provided. Following the course, participants will be required to achieve satisfactory scoring of test cases; some of which are provided by videos and some from self-produced Mini-AHA play sessions.

ASSESSMENT AND CERTIFICATION

On the last day of the course the participants will receive information about how to access a website that shows 4 video recordings of young children with unilateral CP who the participants are required to score. The course tutors will provide individual feedback for each course participant on how well they scored these videos, which is an important part of the process. The participants are then required to produce their own two Mini-AHA play sessions. Dependent on their previous scores, they may also have to score them. This process needs to be completed successfully to become a certified Mini-AHA rater. This whole process should be completed in three months. To complete the last part of the assessment process, guidance is provided during the course about suitable toys for the participants to use. In addition, further feedback about the toys is provided by the course tutors when they view the participants own self-produced Mini-AHA play sessions.

Please note, it is generally a requirement that participants must be a certified AHA rater to attend the mini-AHA course. There are some exceptions to this.

INSTRUCTORS

Dr Sue Greaves (OT, Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne; mini-AHA test developer) and Dr Brian Hoare (OT, CPteaching, Melbourne).

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Occupational therapists, Physiotherapists.