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Authors

Cherng, Rong-Ju
Cheng, Hsiang-Chun
Chen, Jenn-Yeu
et al.

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Reading and writing performance in 7-8 year old children with developmental coordination disorder identified at 5-6 years old

Rong-Ju Cherng

Department of Physical Therapy and Institute of Allied Health Sciences, National Cheng Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan

Hsiang-Chun Cheng

Department of Physical Therapy, Hungkuang University, Taichung, Taiwan and Institute of Allied Health Sciences, National Cheng Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan

Jenn-Yeu Chen

Department of Psychology and Institute of Cognitive Science, National Cheng Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan

Miau-Lin Shen

Department of Early Childhood Education, Asia University, Taichung, Taiwan

Abstract: Twenty-nine children identified with developmental coordination disorder (DCD) at the age of 5-6 years old and 77 typically developing (TD) children were followed at the age of 7-to-8-years old to measure their reading and writing performances with The Chinese Reading Achievement Test (CRAT) and the Basic Reading and Writing Test Battery (BRWTB). The results showed no significant differences between groups on CRAT. However, the children with DCD scored significantly lower on the writing subtests of the BRWTB (copying a word and copying a short paragraph from a textbook) than TD children (13.0 ± 5.2 vs. 15.3 ± 5.3 ; 46.2 ± 22.6 vs. 50.1 ± 20.1). Children with DCD in Taiwan did not have poorer reading ability than TD children. However, they showed poorer writing ability. This finding likely reflects the unique characteristics of the Chinese writing system, and suggests that some of children's developmental problems may be culturally and linguistically bound.