

LEVEL OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN PARENTS, CHILD CARE PROVIDERS, AND STUDENT PHYSICAL THERAPISTS: DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD PILOT STUDY

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BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE: Physicians often perceive parents lacking knowledge of development.¹ Using a reliable and valid screening tool completed by parents may increase physicians' trust in parental concerns, especially if correlated with developmental providers. This study investigates the level of agreement between parents, child care providers (CC), and student physical therapists (SPT) following administration of Ages and Stages Questionnaire Third Edition (ASQ-3).

SUBJECTS: Twelve children, ages 7-51 months (median 24 months), were recruited from Hand In Hand Child Care Center in St. Paul, MN. Their performance was rated by 9 parents, 5 CC, and 4 SPT.

METHODS AND MATERIALS: This correlational study compared ASQ-3 scoring between parents, CCs, and SPTs. ASQ-3 is a developmental screen to identify delays in five domains: Gross Motor, Fine Motor, Communication, Problem Solving, Personal-Social. Screening was conducted across two sessions within two weeks to prevent testing effects and avoid maturation changes. First, parents completed the ASQ-3 on their child with a SPT observing. Then, the CC completed the same questionnaire with another SPT scoring as an observer.

ANALYSIS: The Shapiro-Wilk test for Normality demonstrated none of the five ASQ-3 domains were normally distributed across the three groups. Therefore, Spearman's Rho was selected for analysis.

RESULTS: Positive correlation between the CC and SPT dyad was found in all five developmental domains. The Communication domain was positively correlated across all three dyads. Only two other domains were significant within dyads: Fine Motor between parent and SPT, and Problem Solving between parent and CC.

CONCLUSION: Only the communication domain was reliable across all three dyads. Further investigation is needed to determine the congruence of parental concerns across the other four ASQ-3 domains with CC and SPTs.

IMPLICATIONS: These results support parental reporting in the Communication domain as useful for early detection and referral to speech language pathology services.