Reviewer's report

Title: Arm hand skilled performance in cerebral palsy: activity preferences and their movement components.

Version: 1 Date: 14 January 2014

Reviewer: Styliani Milioti

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Major Compulsory Revisions

Overall: In my opinion the section “Procedure and data analysis” need rewriting.

Procedure and data analysis

1. In this section the “Identification of 10 most preferred goals” must be placed immediately after the “Identification of goals and preference scores” and before the “Inventory of movement components”. It will become easier for the reader to follow the procedure of the study.

2. In section “Inventory of movement components” it is not clear how many goals were analyzed, the final 10 or all 70? If the analysis was made for the 70 goals, which was the aim for it? In addition no data have been presented regarding these 70 goals neither any discussion about the results was made.

3. In section “Inventory of movement components” there is no information concerning the guidelines that the experts follow for the analysis of the goals and also the specific criteria they have used in order to identify the “most prominent component” for each goal.

4. In section “Inventory of movement components” there is no information concerning the criteria that the experts follow in order to clarify “the leading arm/hand” and the “assisting arm-hand”. It is necessary to become clear what the authors mean about leading and assisting arm-hand for example concerning the goals: “Catch a bal”, Put on socks, “Dress a doll” and others.

Discussion:

1. In the last paragraph in section “Main findings regarding the goals and their movement components” the authors concluded that “The components ‘reach’ and ‘release’, present in many goals, though not often indicated as most prominent, are more general movements. To be able to grasp an object, reaching and releasing are required.” What do the authors mean by the term “general movements”, separated them from “movement components”? This issue must become clear.

2. In my opinion the section “Implication for the development of the set standardized test situations” need rewriting in order to become obvious which was the significance of the study.
Minor Essential Revisions

Inventory of movement components

1. 1st Paragraph, 1st sentence (“The goals …...components.”). In this sentence the words “ further evaluated” must be replaced with the word “analyzed”. The word further must be deleted since it is the first time that the authors reporting an analysis of the goals into components.

2. The components ‘manipulate’, ‘fixate’ and ‘push/pull/shove’ are quit specific and characterize a goal.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'