

## **Gross motor skills performance in Italian children with and without visual impairment: assess to improve.**

**Giulia Chiara Castiglioni Matteo Porro (1) , Giulia Hirn (2), Marco Lippolis (3)**

(1) Università degli Studi di Milano, Postgraduate School of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitative Medicine; Real Eyes Sport ASD, Resident Doctor in Physical Therapy and Rehabilitative Medicine; Athletic Director of a non-profit sport association (Real Eyes Sport ASD) , Milan, Italy

(2) Fondazione IRCCS Ca' Granda Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico, Pediatric Rehabilitation Service, Milan, Italy

(3) Real Eyes Sport ASD  
Università degli Studi di Milano, Postgraduate School of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitative Medicine

Type of Contribution:

Age Range Infant/Toddler, Pre-School, Elementary, Middle School

Population Visual Impairment

Physical Activity Visual Impairment

Session Activity Research Presentation (20 minutes)

The aim of this study is to assess gross motor skills performance of Italian children with and without visual impairment (VI) to quantify the existing gap and provide an empirical basis to build for VI children a more achieving setting of development to increase their skills for inclusion.

19 children with visual impairments (M age 9,3= years) and 19 sighted children (M age= 8.2 Years) participated. TGMD-2 was used to assess the gross motor skills. The results showed that children with VI had significantly lower both locomotor skills and object control skills than sighted children. Differences were found in relation to the degree of visual impairment: blind children had significantly lower locomotor and object control skills than severe visually impaired children. Practical implications are provided.