

Performance and Self-Perception of a motor skills of children and youth with visual impairment: A pilot project in Switzerland

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Type of Contribution:

Age Range Elementary, Middle School

Population Visual Impairment

Physical Activity Visual Impairment

Session Activity Research Presentation (20 minutes)

Introduction: Youth with visual impairment (VI) may have lower motor skills than their sighted peers. Several factors may be related to the level of performance, including level of vision and perception (e.g., self or parents). In Switzerland, despite a policy in favor of inclusion in physical education (PE), students with VI may attend special or inclusive school. Access to school and community sports is limited due to insufficient training and resources for PE teachers. To address this gap, Camp Abilities Switzerland, a university summer camp model, was created to develop motor skills and self-determination during a week-long summer camp. Purpose: The purpose of this study was to assess motor skills and self-perceptions of youth attending this camp. Method: The participants were 20 adolescents with VI aged 8 to 18 years (mean age = 13.5 years). Two instruments were used simultaneously. 1) The Test of Gross Motor Development-III (TGMD-III) adapted for VI was used to assess motor skills and 2) a self-report questionnaire of motor skills. Results: Preliminary results identify discrepancies between performance and perception, particularly for throwing and catching skills.