

---

## D6: How do we measure participation in daily life for children and youth needing power mobility?

Debbie Field, PhD

William C. Miller, PhD, FCAOT

Tal Jarus, PhD

Stephen E. Ryan, PhD, PEng

### Learning objectives:

By the end of the session participants will be able to

1. Describe two instances when using participation measures may be helpful in clinical practice;
2. Describe three elements of participation important to measure for children with power mobility needs;
3. Contrast two paediatric participation measures when considering use with children who have mobility limitations.

### Session description

Participation in meaningful life experiences such as being a family member, playing with friends, learning at school, and engaging in community events benefit all children. Yet, participation in daily life is often restricted for those with mobility limitations. Understanding children's participation is important for improving seating and mobility interventions, but little is known about how best to measure participation for children who need power mobility.

The POWER (Paediatric Participation Outcomes for Wheelchair Evaluation in Rehabilitation) Mobility study sought to answer the following questions: 'What paediatric participation measures are available?' 'What evidence supports the use of these measures with children with significant mobility limitations?' and 'What does participation in daily life look like for children with power mobility needs?'

Using a combination of didactic presentation, case studies, videos, small and large group discussion, workshop participants will have opportunity to reflect on benefits and challenges of measuring children's participation in their practice; compare their priorities to top-ranked elements that reached consensus in an online modified Delphi survey describing the 'who, what, where, when and how' of measuring

participation for children using power mobility; and contrast three participation measures including the Participation and Environment Measure for Children and Youth (evaluating parents' perspective of participation in home, school and community); Children's Assessment of Participation and Enjoyment (evaluating children's perspective in out-of-school leisure pursuits); and the individualized Wheelchair Outcome Measure for Young People (evaluating participation in meaningful situations deemed important by children and parents). A systematic review of paediatric participation measures and Delphi panelists' (74 parents, therapists and researchers) suitability ratings informed the selection of these measures.

Clinical Significance: Similarities and differences exist between how measures evaluate children's participation in daily life. Understanding which elements of children's participation to measure will help guide appropriate selection of measures and power mobility interventions.

### Content references

1. Field DA, Miller WC, Ryan SE, Jarus T, Abundo A. (2016). Measuring participation for children and youth with power mobility needs: a systematic review of potential health measurement tools. *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*, 97(3), 462-77. DOI: 10.1016/j.apmr.2015.08.428. pii: S0003-9993(15)01161.
2. Field D, Miller WC, Jarus T, Ryan SE, Roxborough L. (2016). Exploring suitable participation tools for children who need or use power mobility: a modified Delphi survey. *Developmental Neurorehabilitation*, 19(6): 365-79. DOI:10.3109/17518423.2015.1004763
3. Field DA, Miller WC, Jarus T, Ryan SE, Roxborough L. (2015). Important elements of measuring participation for children who need or use power mobility: a modified Delphi survey. *Developmental Medicine and Child Neurology*, 57(6): 556-63. DOI: 10.1111/dmcn.12645