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# The Early Motor Profile: Correlation with the Bruininks-Oseretsky Test of Motor Efficiency<sup>1</sup>

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# The Early Motor Profile: Correlation with the Bruininks-Oseretsky Test of Motor Efficiency<sup>1</sup>

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## Abstract

A correlational study of the Bruininks-Oseretsky Test of Motor Proficiency and the Early Motor Profile with 109 kindergarten children showed a significant relation between these two measures of motor abilities. These results support use of the latter profile as a measure of motor development in preschool age children.

Motor development in children has long been considered an indicator of overall development and has been shown to correlate with other aspects of development (2, 11, 12). Since initial publication in 1978, the Bruininks-Oseretsky Test of Motor Proficiency (5) has been used extensively for motor measurement and as a tool for developmental research (1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10). With the expansion of services to infants and young children with disabilities through P.L. 99-457, and the increased awareness of the effects of early intervention, the need for early childhood research and development activity in the motor development area has increased substantially.

The Preschool Motor Scale (7) is a product of such research and development activity. A review of motor research and an analysis of the Bruininks-Oseretsky Test led to the development and selection of items appropriate for young children. Particular attention was given to creating items, materials, and directions that would be appealing to young children and sensitive to assessing critical aspects of early motor proficiency. Field testing of these items resulted in a final selection of tasks for the Preschool Motor Scale based on

practical requirements such as space limitations in child care settings as well as technical matters such as validity and reliability. A screening edition, called the Early Motor Profile, is a shorter version of the Preschool Motor Scale. This shorter version, normed on children ages 2-0 to 7-0, has been included as a component of the Early Screening Profiles (13), a nationally normed, comprehensive screening battery designed to identify children with disabilities or those at risk of developing disabilities.

This study measured the relation between the Bruininks-Oseretsky Test and the Early Motor Profile. Subjects were 109 kindergarten students (57 boys, 52 girls) enrolled in a midwestern suburban school district. Their ages ranged from 67 months to 83 months ( $M = 74.7$ ,  $SD = 3.8$ ).

Children's mean scores and  $SD$ s on the Bruininks-Oseretsky Test, full battery ( $54.95 \pm 10.09$ , 20–78) and short form ( $58.11 \pm 9.68$ , 25–75), were compared with their respective scores on the Early Motor Profile ( $96.21 \pm 12.28$ , 69–128). Using a sample correlation coefficient, a significant association was found. The correlation between the full battery Bruininks-Oseretsky Test and the Early Motor Profile was  $.659$  ( $p < .001$ ), and the correlation between the Bruininks-Oseretsky-Short Form and the Early Motor Profile was  $.615$  ( $p < .001$ ). These results support use of this new profile as a measure of motor development in research with preschool age children.

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