

Research from Oxford Brookes University

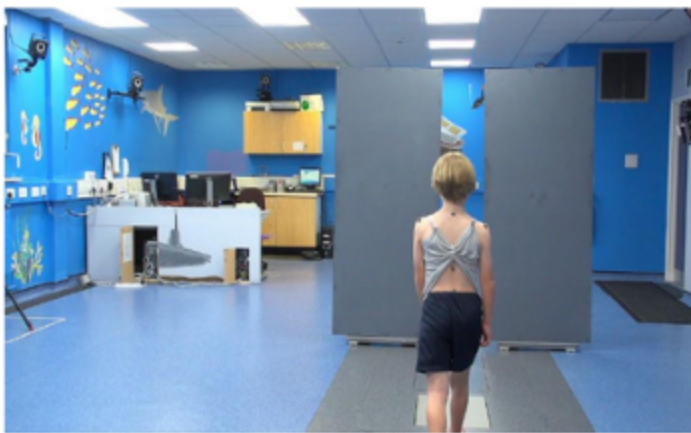
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The focus

We used the task of walking through gaps. We looked at factors which change the way we turn when walking and whether we think we will turn.

The factors we considered were: anxiety, confidence and movement consistency



N.B. This photo is for illustrative purposes and was taken during a previous study, the one described here did not include children

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Why it matters

Levels of anxiety tend to be higher and confidence lower in Dyspraxia/DCD and understanding how this changes movement is really important so we can understand how motor control changes in high anxiety situations

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How we did it

We asked 17 adults with Dyspraxia / DCD and 17 without to judge *whether* they would turn through different sized gaps AND we measured movement while they were walking through those gaps

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How people moved

People with Dyspraxia / DCD left more space between their shoulders and the edges of the 'doorways' than people without Dyspraxia / DCD. This was even greater in adults who struggled to move consistently



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What about anxiety and confidence?

In adults with Dyspraxia / DCD anxiety did not change movement.

It did in adults without Dyspraxia / DCD.

Confidence did not change movement in either group

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What this means and what is next

We don't think this is a full picture and we want to explore the role of anxiety in movement control in greater depth so we can understand this more fully.

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