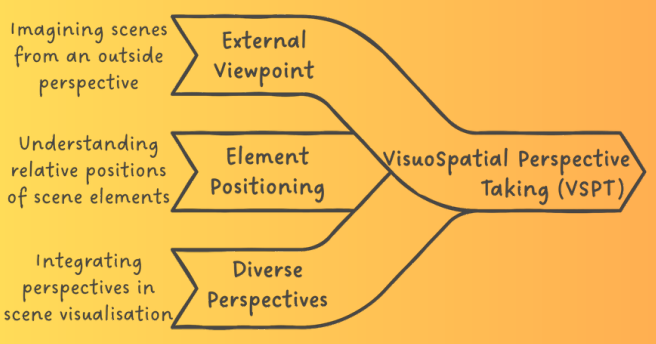
“Picture this from there”: spatial perspective-taking in developmental visuospatial disorder and developmental coordination disorder

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Did you know?

Perspective taking means being able to see things from someone else’s point of view.



📌 For children and teens with neurodevelopmental disorders like DCD, having trouble with this skill can impact on:

- Daily activities like schoolwork and playing
- Social interactions and understanding how others feel or think

Our Study

We worked with children and teens aged 8 to 16. Some had a diagnosis of DCD (N=26) or Developmental Visuospatial Disorder (DVSD, N=26). We also included a group without any diagnosis (N=33).

Everyone did a visuospatial perspective-taking (VSPT) task: they looked at a flat picture with several objects, imagined being in a certain spot, and then had to say where another object was from that imagined viewpoint. We also looked at how their visuospatial skills and fine motor skills affected how well they did on the task.



Our key findings



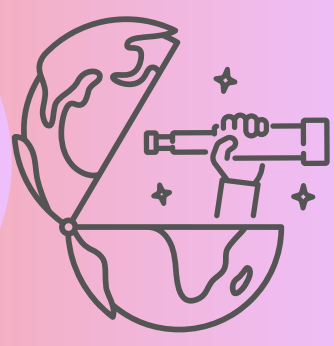
- Children with DCD struggled more than their peers without diagnosis in the VSPT tasks, and their skills didn’t improve much as they got older.
- Visuospatial memory played a key role for children with DCD: those with better working memory made fewer errors when imagining someone else’s viewpoint. This means that weaker visuospatial memory may impact everyday tasks that require understanding others’ perspectives, like navigating spaces or playing with peers.
- Unlike the other groups, fine motor skills did not help children with DCD perform better on the VSPT task, which suggests they might use different ways to solve the problem. Further research is needed to understand this better.

So what?

Difficulties in VSPT for children with DCD are associated with both motor skills problems and cognitive aspects.

🧠Being able to see things from someone else’s point of view is very important in everyday life. When children find this difficult, it’s important to provide the right kind of support (i.e., treatment).

📌Every child is unique, so the best help comes from focusing not only on their main challenges but also on related skills. Our research aims to support this approach.



Read our full-text

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New research!
We have just launched a study exploring the link between social-relational skills and visuospatial and motor abilities in DCD... Stay tuned!

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