



Workshop Invitation:

The Assisting Hand Assessment, a new perspective on evaluating hand function in children with unilateral impairments.

The Assisting Hand Assessment (AHA) is now a well-established and frequently used evaluative tool to measure how effectively children with unilateral hand dysfunction actually use their involved hand collaboratively with their well-functioning hand to perform bimanual tasks. For the child the AHA is an enjoyable 10 to 15 minute semi-structured play session using a test-kit of selected toys requiring bimanual use. The AHA is then scored from structured video recordings of the observable performance skills during this play. The AHA measurement contains twenty items scored on a four-point rating scale. The outcome is an evaluative interval level measure, which together with the individual child's response profile, can guide intervention. AHA is a standardized test intended for children with unilateral Cerebral Palsy or Brachial Plexus Palsy between the ages of 18 months and 12 years. A teenage- and adult version is currently being developed.

Validity and reliability of the AHA scores are well documented in several studies^{i, ii, iii, iv}. The AHA has been widely used to evaluate various upper limb interventions including constraint-induced movement therapy (e.g. Eliasson et al 2011, Sakzewski et al., 2011, Aarts et al., 2011), bimanual therapy (Gordon et al., 2011), Botulinum toxin-A (Hoare et al., 2010, 2012), hand surgery (Ponten et al., 2011), splinting (Louwers et al., 2011) and allowed the exploration of longitudinal development of bimanual hand function in children with unilateral cerebral palsy (Holmefur et al. 2010^v, ^{vi}) Welcome to visit the web site www.ahanetwork.se for more information.

The course teaches the Assisting Hand Assessment, the new version 5.0 and is conducted in two steps. First, a 2½-day training course is given including information about the test construct, testing procedure and scoring practice on a range of children from videos. A manual with detailed scoring criteria and a computer based scoring form is provided. To achieve certification, the participant is to complete six additional cases and get satisfactory results. Some of these from videos provided on a web based e-learning platform, and some self-produced AHA play sessions. Individual feedback of these cases is provided. The AHA test kit for children between 18 months and 12 years with specific toys, and/or the new board game for teenagers can be ordered from Handfast Inc, at the course or later during the certification procedure at a cost of approximately \$520 and/or \$180 respectively (dependent of the current currency, exact price will be given when course dates are set) + shipping costs.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to:

Demonstrate the set up, conduct and video record an Assisting Hand Assessment session and *produce reliable scores* according to the criteria in the manual

Verbalize the concept and construct of the test and its psychometric properties

Interpret and communicate the outcome of the test.

COURSE TUTORS

Marie Holmefur, OT, PhD in Pediatric Science and Senior Lecturer at School of Health and Medical Sciences, Sweden

Britt-Marie Zethraeus, Reg OT, MSc, occupational therapist at the Karolinska University Hospital in Stockholm, Sweden.

Participants: The course takes 15-25 participants

Date: 22.-23.-24 of november 2017

Price: 5500 Dkk. per person

Venue: Aalborg University Hospital, Aalborg, Denmark

The course will be held in english and requires a minimum of 16 participants.

Registration deadline: 29th of September 2017

The fee includes a copy of the AHA manual and unlimited number of score forms as paper copies and the electronic version.

If interested please contact

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Regional CPOP coordinator

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i Krumlinde-Sundholm L., Eliasson A-C. (2003) Development of the Assisting Hand Assessment, a Rasch-built measure intended for children with unilateral upper limb impairments. *Scand J Occup Ther* 10: 16-26.

ii Krumlinde-Sundholm L., Holmefur M., Kottorp A., Eliasson A-C. (2007) The Assisting Hand Assessment: Current evidence of validity, reliability and responsiveness to change. *Dev Med Child Neur* 49, 259-264

iii Holmefur M, Krumlinde-Sundholm L, Eliasson A-C. (2007) Interrater and intrarater Reliability of the Assisting Hand Assessment. *Am Journ Occup Ther* 61, 79-84.

iv Holmefur M, Aarts P, Hoare B, Krumlinde-Sundholm L (2009) Retest and alternate forms reliability of the Assisting Hand Assessment. *Journal of Rehabilitation medicine*. 41: 886-891

v Holmefur M, Krumlinde-Sundholm L, Bergström J, Eliasson A-C (2010) Longitudinal development of hand function in children with unilateral cerebral palsy. *Developmental Medicine and Child Neurology* 52(4): 352-357.

vi Holmefur M, Kits A, Bergström J, Krumlinde-Sundholm L, Flodmark O, Forssberg H, Eliasson AC (2012) Neuroradiology Can Predict the Development of Hand Function in Children With Unilateral Cerebral Palsy. *Neurorehabil Neural Repair* published online 6 June 2012.