

WORKSHOP INVITATION:



The Assisting Hand Assessment version 5.0, a new perspective on evaluating hand function in children with unilateral impairments 18 months – 18 years

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. For older children a specially made board game is utilized and for teenagers and adults a board game, or two other bimanual activities can be used. The AHA activities are video recorded and then scored. 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 18 years.

Validity and reliability of the AHA scores are well documented in several studies^{i, ii, iii, iv, v, vi, vii}. 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^{viii, ix}) Welcome to visit the web site www.ahanetwork.se for more information.



The course teaches the Assisting Hand Assessment, version 5.0 and is conducted in two steps. First, a 2½-day training course include 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 € 381 and/or € 122 respectively (dependent of the current currency) + 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

Lena Krumlinde-Sundholm, Reg OT, PhD, Associate Professor is a senior researcher at the Neuropediatric unit, Department of Woman's and Children's Health, Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm and **Lisa V. Wagner DHS, OTR/L**, is a senior OT at Shriners Hospitals for Children, Greenville, USA.



This course will take place at the world renowned **Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center** in Downey, California on September 16th-18th, 2019, at a cost of \$1300 per person, which includes a copy of the AHA manual and unlimited number of score forms as paper copies and an electronic version. The maximum capacity for this workshop is 25 participants.

If interested please visit

<https://www.ranchoresearch.org/events/assisting-hand-assessment-workshop>



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, (2015) Psychometric properties of a revised version of the Assisting Hand Assessment (Kids-AHA 5.0). [Epub ahead of print] *Developmental Medicine & Child Neurology*

vi Louwers A, Beelen A, Holmefur M, Krumlinde-Sundholm L (2016) Development of the Assisting Hand Assessment for adolescents (Ad-AHA) and validation of the AHA from 18 months to 18 years. *Developmental Medicine & Child Neurology* Dec;58(12):1303-1309.

vii Louwers A., Krumlinde-Sundholm L., Boeschoten K., Beelen A. (2017) Reliability of the Assisting Hand Assessment in adolescents. *Developmental Medicine and Child Neurology* *Developmental Medicine & Child Neurology* 2016 Jun;58(6):618-24

viii 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.

ix Holmefur M, Kits A, Bergström J, Krumlinde-Sundholm L, Flodmark O, Forsberg 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.