

Abstract

Objective: The aim of this work is to diagnose the motoric level of children at the age of 8 – 13, to verify the feasibility of the field investigations in a group form in the school regime at elementary schools, to compare the percentage of children with a motoric deficit with present information about prevalence, to carry out a comparison of test results with the standardized British norm, and to find out, if the results vary as a function of gender, the demographic indicator of the size of the community where the elementary school is located or as a function of age.

Methods: The test battery named Movement Assessment Battery for Children – Second Edition (Henderson et al., 2007) was used. The comparison of the results with the British norm was done according to the method of standardisation study (in Henderson et al., 2007, p. 127 – 130) by the means of effect size, by comparing the performances in particular test items (partial tests), the total score achieved in each of the three motor components observed, and for the total score in the whole battery of eight tests. Determinative relations between the variables (dependent variables: test results, and potentially independent variables: age, gender, place) were detected by three-factor regression analysis of variance – ANOVA.

Results and Discussion: The group form of testing at elementary schools was identified as possible and we managed to make its entire time course more effective. The results identified a low percentage of individuals with motor deficits (2, 4 %), which could have been affected by low representation of other ethnic groups (i.e. groups other than Czech) in comparison with other published studies. Also, the research did not include the system of 'special education', which is specific for the Czech Republic. The comparison of the results with the British sample, creating a standard for MABC – 2, showed differences mainly in the balancing component. On the other hand, the largest consensus was recorded in the evaluation of gross motor skills. A moderately big difference, compared to the norm, was detected in the total assessment of gross motor skills. It was detected in half of the cases. The analysis showed no significant effect of any of the potential factors on the overall assessment of the level, neither in the motor nor manual skills component. Age and gender were found to be significant factors in the evaluation of other components. The significance of age was revealed in the balance component and gross motor skills component. A determinative relation of age was proved also in the gross motor skills component.

Key words: diagnostics, motor skills, test battery MABC – 2, testing, motor deficit, developmental disorder of motor function DCD