

## WHAT IS DCD?



- **DCD**, commonly known as **DYSPRAXIA**, is a neurodevelopmental condition characterized by **DIFFICULTY WITH FINE AND GROSS MOTOR SKILLS**.
- Symptoms range from **MILD TO SEVERE** and vary widely from one individual to another.
- Despite being almost as common as ADHD and more common than Autism, it is **UNFAMILIAR TO MANY HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS** in the United States (Tamplain et al., 2024).
- DCD is included in:
  - **DSM-5 315.4 Developmental Coordination Disorder**
  - **ICD-11 6A04 Developmental Motor Coordination Disorder**.

## WHAT DOES RESEARCH SHOW?



### RESEARCH SHOWS THAT DCD:

- Is **VERY COMMON**, affecting **5 TO 6% OF CHILDREN**.
- DCD frequently co-occurs with other disorders including **SPEECH-LANGUAGE DISORDERS** and **ADHD**.
- The stress of living with DCD can lead to secondary mental health issues including **DEPRESSION** and **ANXIETY**.
- Children do not “outgrow” DCD, as it frequently continues into **ADULTHOOD** and can negatively impact school and work performance.

(Blank et al, 2019; Tamplain et al., 2024)

## WHY DOES A DIAGNOSIS MATTER?



A DCD diagnosis can have a **SIGNIFICANT IMPACT** by providing:

- Relief for someone who has been labeled as “unmotivated” or “lazy”.
- Understanding and awareness by family and friends.
- A basis for establishing support systems and coping mechanisms.
- Access to medical and educational services and support.

## WHO CAN ASSESS AND DIAGNOSE DCD?



Ideally, a **MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM** of qualified healthcare professionals will assess the **DSM-5 CRITERIA**, and the final diagnosis is made by a medical doctor.

## DSM-5 CRITERIA SUMMARY: 315.4 DCD

THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA **MUST ALL BE MET** FOR A DCD DIAGNOSIS:

- A. Acquisition and execution of motor skills are substantially **BELOW EXPECTATIONS** based on age.
- B. Motor skill difficulties **SIGNIFICANTLY INTERFERE WITH DAILY ACTIVITIES.**
- C. Onset of symptoms occurred during the **EARLY DEVELOPMENTAL PERIOD.**
- D. Motor skill deficits cannot be better explained by **OTHER CONDITIONS.**

(DSM-5; APA, 2013)

### RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENTS FOR DIAGNOSIS OF DCD

DSM-5 Criteria	Assessor	Assessments
<b>A. Motor Functioning</b>	<b>Occupational Therapist (OT)</b> OR <b>Physical Therapist (PT)</b>	<b>MABC-3</b> Movement Assessment Battery for Children, 3rd ed. <b>OR</b> <b>BOT-2</b> Bruininks-Oseretsky Test of Motor Proficiency, 2nd ed.
<b>B. Activities of Daily Living</b>	<b>OT, PT, and/or Physician*</b>  <i>*Physician may be any Medical Doctor (MD) able to assess DSM-5 criteria, such as a Pediatrician, Developmental Pediatrician, Neurologist, Neuropsychiatrist, or other.</i>	<b>DCDQ'07</b> <b>(Developmental Coordination Disorder Questionnaire)</b> A 2-page, 15-item questionnaire to be completed by parents or caregivers of children 5 to 15 years old.  <b>OR</b> <b>Listening for DCD Interview Guide</b> An interview guide with 8 questions to be administered to parents or caregivers.
<b>C. Early Onset</b>	<b>OT, PT, and/or Physician*</b>	<b>Developmental history</b> to confirm motor learning challenges began early in life.
<b>D. Physical Examination</b>	<b>Physician*</b>	<b>Physical examination</b> to rule out other possible causes of motor skill deficits such as a visual impairment, intellectual disability, or other medical condition.



**SOURCE:** Zwicker et al., 2018.

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