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Sinani, Charikleia ORCID:

<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8942-8780>, Mierzwinski, Mark ORCID:  
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9751-5865>, Williams, Jaqueline, Licari,  
Melissa, Purcell, Catherine, Gentle, Judith, Wood, Greg and Wilmut,  
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# The Impact of Developmental Coordination Disorder in the UK



Dr. Charikleia Sinani, Dr. Mark Mierzwenski, Dr. Jacqueline Williams, Dr. Mellissa Licari, Dr. Catherine Purcell, Dr. Judith Gentle, Dr. Greg Wood & Professor Kate Wilmut.

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National Survey Evaluating the Impact of  
Developmental Coordination Disorder in Australia

impact  
FOR DCD

# Background

- In 2020, an Australian research group carried out one of the largest surveys conducted in the world to identify the challenges experienced by children with DCD and their families -  
<https://www.telethonkids.org.au/projects/impact-for-dcd/>
- Key findings:
  - delays in diagnosis,
  - the use of inconsistent terminology,
  - limited funding for support,
  - lack of awareness amongst teachers and health professionals
  - high rates of mental health issues

# The UK study - aims

Following on the Australian study there was a clear need for this study to be replicated in the UK to:

- i) understand the scale and breadth of issues experienced in DCD *and*
- ii) to identify and prioritise areas in which children with DCD and their families require support.



# The UK study

- Questionnaire adapted based on the Australian study
- Included questions around the following areas:
  - family and diagnostics,
  - movement & difficulties,
  - activity,
  - schooling,
  - therapy,
  - social and emotional impact on the child (some questions based on the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) (Goodman, 1987) <https://www.sdqinfo.org/>)
  - Demographics, socioeconomic status,
  - parents to identify priorities and further comments.

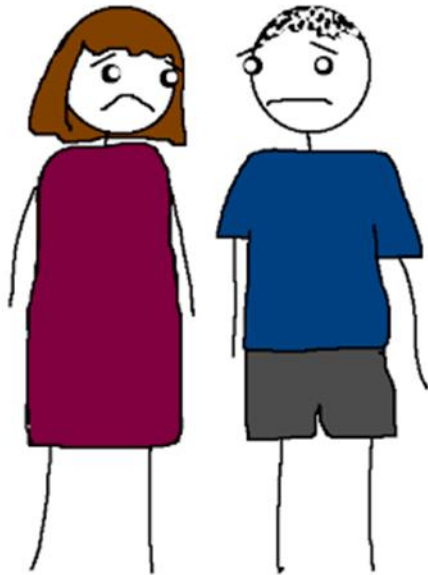


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  - Demographics, socioeconomic status,
  - parents to identify priorities and further comments.



# Conclusions



- **Mental health was one of the major parental concerns and one of the main priority areas for their child.**
- Assessments of co-occurring conditions and mental health problems should be incorporated.
- Intervention should address mental health problems as well as motor development.
- There is a clear need to educate not only families but also professionals working with children with DCD about the signs of poor mental health and the services available to support families and child but also increase the resources available.

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You can find us on twitter [@impactdcduk](#) and on Facebook [ImpactDCDUK | Facebook](#)

Email: [C.Sinani@yorksja.ac.uk](mailto:C.Sinani@yorksja.ac.uk)





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