Est. 1841 | YORK ST JOHN UNIVERSITY

Sinani, Charikleia, Mierzwinski, Mark, Williams, Jaqueline, Licari, Melissa, Purcell, Catherine, Gentle, Judith, Wood, Greg and Wilmut, Kate (2023) The Impact of Developmental Coordination Disorder in the UK. In: DCD UK Conference, 7-8 June 2023, Manchester. (Unpublished)

Downloaded from: https://ray.yorksj.ac.uk/id/eprint/8316/

Research at York St John (RaY) is an institutional repository. It supports the principles of open access by making the research outputs of the University available in digital form. Copyright of the items stored in RaY reside with the authors and/or other copyright owners. Users may access full text items free of charge, and may download a copy for private study or non-commercial research. For further reuse terms, see licence terms governing individual outputs. Institutional Repository Policy Statement

RaY

Research at the University of York St John

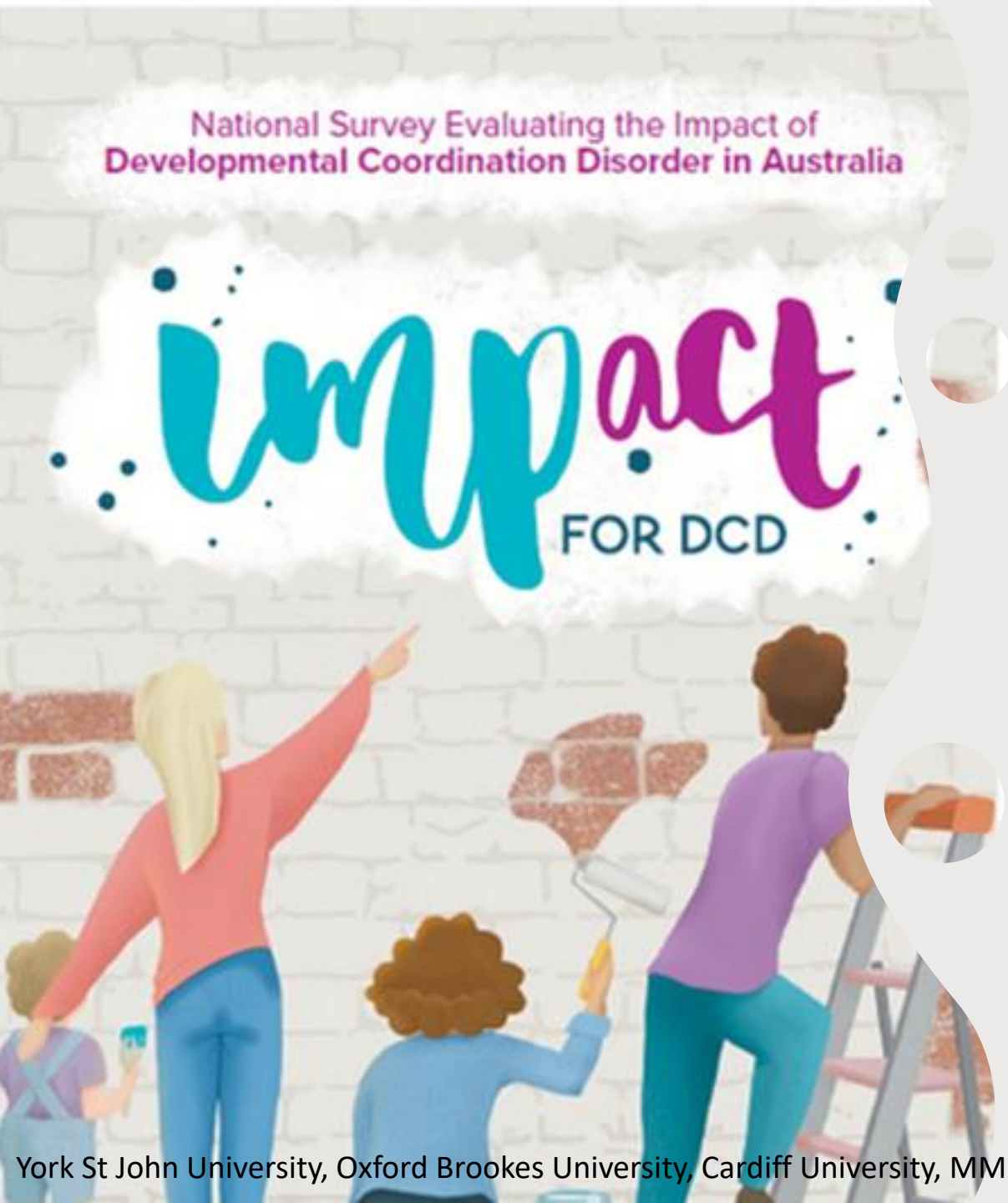
For more information please contact RaY at ray@yorksj.ac.uk

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.

York St John University, Oxford Brookes University, Cardiff University, MMU, Victoria University, Western Australia University & Telethon Kids Institute

© Sinani, 2023.



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

York St John University, Oxford Brookes University, Cardiff University, MMU, Victoria University, Western Australia University & Telethon Kids Institute

© Sinani, 2023.

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.

© Sinani, 2023.

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.

York St John University, Oxford Brookes University, Cardiff University, MMU, Victoria University, Western Australia University & Telethon Kids Institute

© Sinani, 2023.

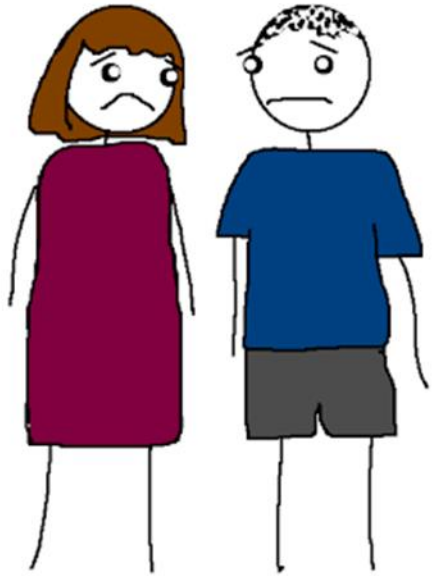
The UK study

- 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.

York St John University, Oxford Brookes University, Cardiff University, MMU, Victoria University, Western Australia University & Telethon Kids Institute

© Sinani, 2023.

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.

© Sinani, 2023.

Acknowledgements

- Children and families who participated in this survey
- Dyspraxia Foundation
- Funders: York St John University and Oxford Brookes University
- Dr. Mark Mierzwenski, Dr. Jacqueline Williams, Dr. Mellissa Licari, Dr. Catherine Purcell, Dr. Judith Gentle, Dr. Greg Wood & Professor Kate Wilmut.

You can find us on twitter @impactdcduk and on Facebook ImpactDCDUK | Facebook

Email: C.Sinani@yorksj.ac.uk

York St John University, Oxford Brookes University, Cardiff University, MMU, Victoria University, Western Australia University & Telethon Kids Institute

© Sinani, 2023.

References

- Goodman R. (1997) The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire: a research note. Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry, 38, 581-586

© Sinani, 2023.