

Title: An examination of the measurement properties of the Pediatric Volitional Questionnaire

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Major Finding: The Pediatric Volitional Questionnaire (PVQ) provides a valid and sensitive measure of volition.

Participants:

- 18 children:
 - 12 male and 6 female
 - Ages 3-7
 - 8 children with disabilities and 10 children without disabilities
- 20 raters:
 - 17 raters were pediatric occupational therapists with 1/2 to 25 years experience
 - 3 raters were Masters level occupational therapy students within one semester of graduation

Method: Each of the 18 child participants was videotaped in two settings. Each rater was randomly assigned 9-10 videotapes and rated the children using the PVQ. This study utilized data from a previous study as well as new data.

Analysis: Rasch analysis using Winsteps software.

Findings:

- All 15 PVQ items work together to measure the construct of volition.
- All three settings (playground, indoor playroom, and classroom) were valid settings in which to evaluate volition among the participants.
- The 4-point rating scale was being used like a 3-point scale in this study.
- Occupational therapists with varied amounts of experience were able to use the PVQ in a consistent way without a special training program.
- Raters differed in their severity/leniency when rating items, meaning that the scores of the same child could not be considered interchangeable.
- All children were validly measured using the PVQ, and 7/8 children with disabilities had lower scores than children without disabilities..

Conclusion: The PVQ is a valid and sensitive measure of volition in children with a wide range of disabilities as well as in children without disabilities.

Implications for future research: Further clarification of how ratings are to be assigned to each item with examples of behaviors for each rating may help to reduce differences in therapists' ratings and increase use of all 4 of the ratings.

Evidence- based practice implications:

- **The PVQ is a valid and sensitive tool that can be used to evaluate children with disabilities and to inform how to structure the treatment plan and therapeutic environment to maximize the child's volition and potential for successful engagement in activities.**
- **Children with disabilities are at a risk for decreased volition and volition should be addressed in therapy.**

Andersen, S., Kielhofner, G. & Lai, J. (2005). An examination of the measurement properties of the Pediatric Volitional Questionnaire. *Physical & Occupational Therapy in Pediatrics*, 25(1/2), 39-57.

