



Self-concept of children with cerebral palsy measured using the population-specific myTREEHOUSE Self-Concept Assessment

Sau Kuan Cheong^{a,*}, Cathryne P. Lang^a, Leanne M. Johnston^b

^a School of Psychology, Australian Catholic University, 1100 Nudgee Road, Banyo, Queensland 4014, Australia

^b The University of Queensland, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, St Lucia Queensland 4072, Australia

ARTICLE INFO

No. of reviews: 2

Keywords:

Cerebral palsy
Children
Self-concept
Assessment
Cognitive function
Social skills
Learning

ABSTRACT

Self-concept is an individual's perception of him/herself. Research into the self-concept of children with cerebral palsy (CP) has been sparse due to the lack of a population-specific self-concept instrument. Using the new myTREEHOUSE Self-Concept Assessment, this study investigated the self-concept of children with CP in relation to age, gender, motor, communication and cognitive function. Children with CP aged 8–12 years ($n = 50$; 29 males; mean 10 years 2 months; GMFCS-E&R I = 36, II = 8, III = 5, IV = 1) completed myTREEHOUSE and a standardised intelligence measure. Most children reported positive self-concept from all three myTREEHOUSE *Performance Perspectives* and over half (60%) fell within the *Low* range for the *Personal Concern Score*. Self-concept was not associated with age, gender, motor function, or communication function. However, for cognitive function, associations were observed for *Social Skills* (Below Average > Average cognitive function; Cohen's $d = 1.07$) and *Learning Skills* (Above Average > Average cognitive function; Cohen's $d = 0.95$) domains when rated from a *Personal Performance Perspective*. As the first study of the self-concept of children with CP using a CP-specific assessment, this study offers important insights into what children with CP think about themselves. Generally, the self-concept of children with CP was sound. Future research on environmental facilitators and barriers to robust self-concept development is recommended.

What this paper adds?

This is the first study to investigate the self-concept of children with cerebral palsy (CP) using a population-specific assessment – the myTREEHOUSE Self-Concept Assessment. While the findings revealed that self-concept of children with CP is not impacted by age, gender, motor, and communication function, self-concept is impacted by cognitive function. This study offers preliminary insights into how children with CP perceive themselves.

1. Introduction

The primary motor disorder and accompanying impairments experienced by children with cerebral palsy (CP) can lead to atypical life experiences compared to typically developing (TD) children. Atypical experiences across a range of environments over time may lead to a different conceptualisation of self-concept for children with CP (Cheong, Lang, Hemphill, & Johnston, 2016), where self-concept is considered an individual's perception of him/herself across various aspects of one's life such as social relationships,

* Corresponding author.

E-mail addresses: saukuan.cheong@outlook.com (S.K. Cheong), cathryne.lang@acu.edu.au (C.P. Lang), ljohnston1@uq.edu.au (L.M. Johnston).

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ridd.2017.12.001>

Received 7 March 2017; Received in revised form 5 November 2017; Accepted 1 December 2017

0891-4222/© 2017 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

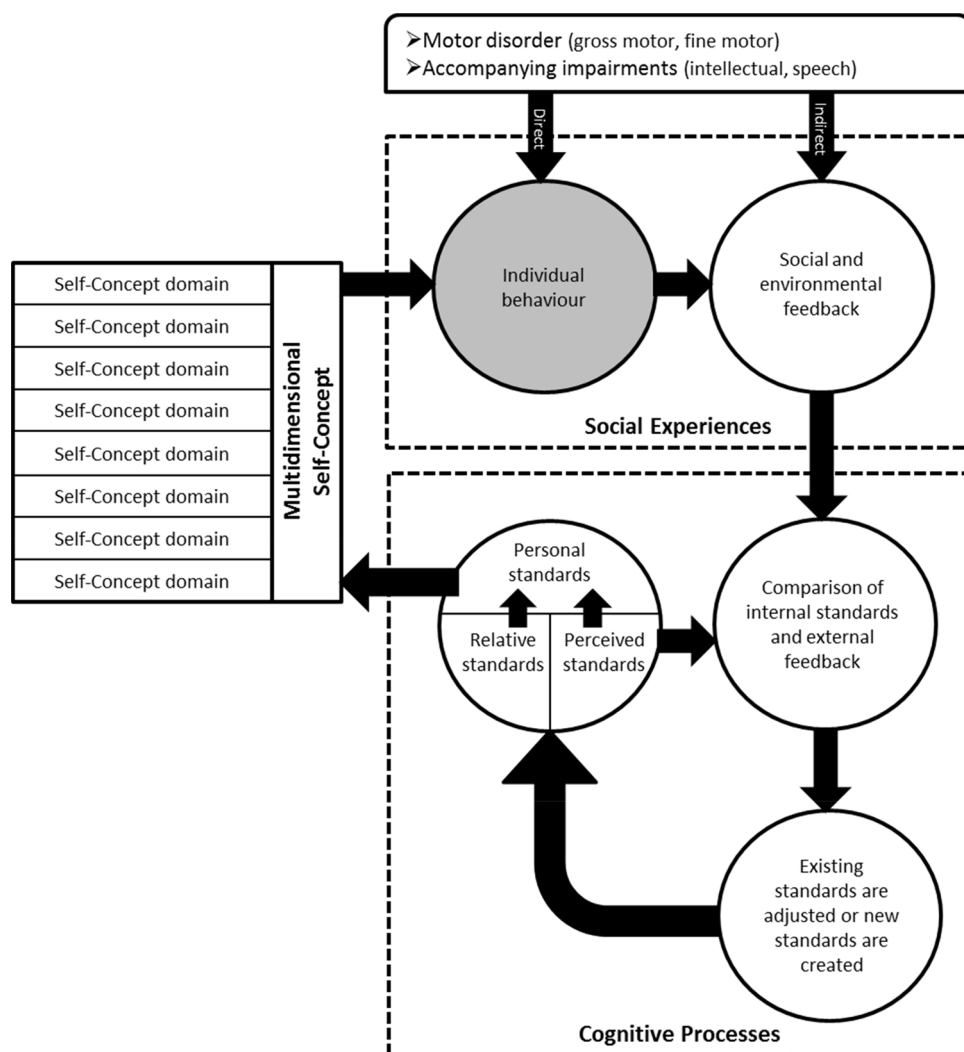


Fig. 1. The Self-Concept Feedback Loop for children with cerebral palsy.

physical appearance, or academic performance (Harter, 2012; Shavelson, Hubner, & Stanton, 1976). Despite this, research into the self-concept of children with CP is sparse compared to the volume of studies on the physical functioning of this population.

A barrier to self-concept research for children with CP has been the lack of well-validated population-specific assessments (von der Luft, DeBoer, Harman, Koenig, & Nixon-Cave, 2008), and the overuse of assessments developed for TD children (Cheong & Johnston, 2013). This situation has changed recently with the development of the population-specific *myTREEHOUSE Self-Concept Assessment* (myTREEHOUSE; Cheong, Lang, Hemphill, & Johnston, 2017). This assessment provides a child-reported evaluation of self-concept from three *Performance Perspectives*: (i) Personal – an evaluation of performance against one's personal standards; (ii) Social – an evaluation of performance against the performance of peers; and (iii) Perceived – one's perception of how significant others might evaluate their performance. Each *Performance Perspective* is assessed across eight domains which were determined via a Delphi process: *Social Skills, Physical Abilities, Physical Appearance, Ability to Participate, Learning Skills, Personal Agency, Emotional Regulation, and General Self*. The purpose of this study was to use myTREEHOUSE to establish a self-concept profile of children with CP, focusing on self-concept domains rated from the *Personal Performance Perspective* and the *Personal Concern Score*.

It is known that self-concept develops as a result of the interaction between cognitive processes and social experiences. Based on existing literature, we postulate that an individual's self-concept develops through a *Self-Concept Feedback Loop* (Fig. 1). First, the individual needs to be exposed to socialisation experiences, during which one's behaviour is influenced by one's current perspectives across relevant self-concept domains (Harter, 2012). Next, the outcomes of these social experiences are evaluated against one's current personal standards (i.e., personal 'ideals' for specific behaviours), social standards (i.e., benchmarked behaviours based on peers' behaviours), and perceived standards (i.e., benchmarked behaviours based on the opinions of significant others; Shavelson et al., 1976). Finally, this analysis may lead the individual to adjust existing or create new personal standards, which in turn shape the individual's self-concept and future behaviours (Cooley, 1902/1964; Cooley, 1902).

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/6848263>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/6848263>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)