

**Title: A Delphi Survey to explore how to measure participation for children who use power mobility.**

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**Abstract:**

**Introduction:** Paediatric power mobility interventions address restrictions in participation in everyday activities, however, few therapists use participation measures to determine effectiveness of these interventions. Although a number of participation measures are available, it is unknown if they are appropriate for children who use power mobility.

**Objectives:** To determine which participation measures are most suitable for two age groups of children who use power mobility (18 months to 5 years and 6 to 12 years of age), based on consensus of important elements to measure.

**Methods:** An international sample of experts completed a 4 round on-line Delphi survey. The experts consisted of parents of children using power mobility, therapists and researchers experienced with paediatric power mobility interventions or participation issues. Respondents were asked to identify and rank elements of participation deemed important to measure for children in the two age groups. Elements reflected what kind of participation, in what setting, with whom, and reported from whose point of view. Participation measures were categorized by these elements, then respondents were asked to determine which participation measures were most suitable based on the highest ranked elements.

**Results:** 71/75 participants completed the final survey. Respondents reached consensus on 21 elements of participation that were important to measure for children in the two age groups (8 elements for the younger group and 18 for the older group). Only one measure, the PEM-CY, reached consensus, but only for use with the older group. Several measures were identified as having potential.

**Conclusions:** Consensus was achieved using a Delphi survey technique to determine the most important elements of participation to measure for children who use power mobility. The international expert panel identified several participation measures worthy of consideration. When deciding on a suitable participation measure, it's important to reflect on differences between early childhood and school-aged children.