

**A randomized control trial investigating the effect of a play-informed caregiver-implemented home-based intervention on playfulness for HIV positive children aged 10 months to 8 years on HAART from a low socio-economic status**

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**Introduction:** There is limited research on the play needs of children with HIV. This study formed part of a larger project investigating participation outcomes for children with HIV living in low socio-economic status (SES).

**Objectives:** This study aimed to establish a playfulness profile for children with HIV and to compare differences in playfulness scores between one-on-one occupational therapy and PICIHBI groups.

**Description:** The study followed a pragmatic single-blinded randomized control design. 66 participants were recruited. After withdrawals, loss to follow up and final inclusion criteria, there were 12 participants per group. Participants received 10 monthly intervention sessions. The Test of Playfulness (ToP) was used to measure baseline, mid and post intervention scores.

**Results:** The playfulness score of the total sample at baseline was -0.77. This is below the normative score for typically developing children of 0.4 and atypical children of -0.38. The score for the PICIHBI group at baseline was -0.70, whilst the one-on-one group was -0.81. The scores at post assessment improved marginally, the PICIHBI group scored -0.63 and -0.42 for the one-on-one group. There was no statistically significant difference between post assessment scores for the groups.

**Conclusion:** These results suggest that children with HIV from low SES are likely to experience poor quality of play. Greater effort to promote play for this population is warranted. Results indicated that the group differences were not statistically significant. This demonstrated that within this context, group intervention achieved similar goals to one-on-one intervention, whilst catering for a larger percentage of the population.