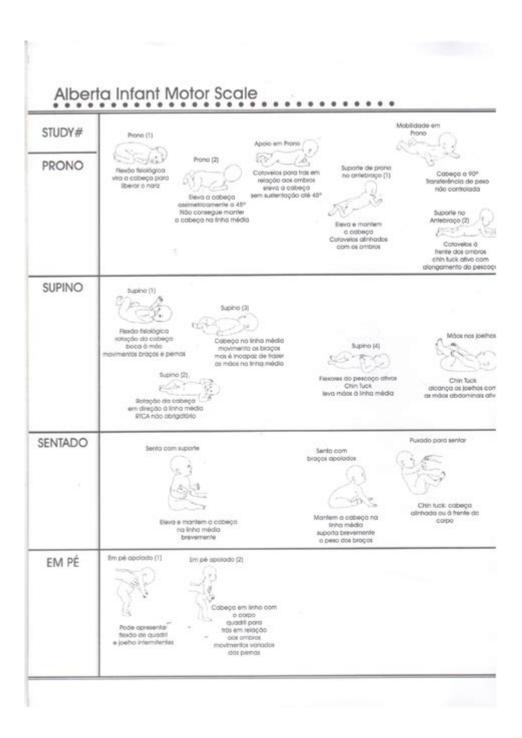
Alberta Infant Motor Scale



Alberta Infant Motor Scale: A Comprehensive Guide for Parents and Professionals

Is your baby meeting their developmental milestones? Understanding your infant's motor skills is crucial for their healthy growth and development. This comprehensive guide dives deep into the Alberta Infant Motor Scale (AIMS), exploring its purpose, administration, interpretation, and significance in early childhood development. We'll equip you with the knowledge to better

understand this valuable assessment tool and what it means for your little one.

What is the Alberta Infant Motor Scale (AIMS)?

The Alberta Infant Motor Scale (AIMS) is a widely used, observational assessment tool designed to evaluate the gross motor development of infants from birth to 18 months of age. Unlike standardized tests that rely on specific responses, the AIMS focuses on spontaneous movements, capturing a more natural picture of an infant's motor abilities. This makes it a particularly valuable tool for assessing infants with suspected developmental delays or those born prematurely.

Key Features of the AIMS:

Observational: The assessment relies on observing the infant's spontaneous movements in various positions. This avoids the potential biases associated with directed tasks.

Standardized: The AIMS provides a standardized scoring system, allowing for comparisons across different infants and facilitating the tracking of progress over time.

Comprehensive: It assesses a wide range of gross motor skills, including posture, head control, limb movements, and locomotion.

Easy to Administer: With proper training, the AIMS is relatively simple to administer, making it accessible to a range of healthcare professionals.

How is the AIMS Administered?

The AIMS is administered by a trained professional, typically a pediatrician, physical therapist, or occupational therapist. The assessment typically takes place in a comfortable, familiar setting to minimize stress for the infant. The examiner observes the infant in a series of positions, such as prone (lying on the stomach), supine (lying on the back), and sitting, noting the quality and range of their movements. The observation is scored based on a standardized scoring system.

Scoring and Interpretation:

The AIMS uses a standardized scoring system, typically ranging from 0 to 100, with higher scores indicating greater motor skill development. The score provides a snapshot of the infant's current motor abilities and can be compared to age-based norms. It's crucial to understand that the AIMS isn't a diagnostic tool in itself. A low score might indicate a need for further investigation and potential intervention, but it doesn't provide a definitive diagnosis.

The Importance of Early Intervention

Early identification of developmental delays is paramount. The AIMS plays a vital role in this process, allowing for timely interventions that can significantly impact an infant's developmental trajectory. Early intervention can take many forms, including physical therapy, occupational therapy, and specialized educational programs. The sooner these interventions are implemented, the more effective they tend to be.

Beyond the Score: Understanding the Context

While the numerical score from the AIMS is important, it's essential to consider the overall picture. The assessor should also consider factors such as the infant's medical history, family history, and overall health. The AIMS score should be interpreted within this broader context. A low score shouldn't lead to immediate alarm but rather prompt further investigation and collaborative discussion with healthcare providers.

AIMS and Premature Infants

The AIMS is particularly valuable for assessing premature infants. Due to their early birth, premature babies may exhibit delayed motor development compared to their full-term peers. The AIMS provides a tool for tracking their progress and tailoring interventions to their individual needs. Using corrected gestational age (the age the infant would be if born at full term) is crucial when interpreting the AIMS scores for premature infants.

Conclusion

The Alberta Infant Motor Scale is a powerful tool for assessing infant motor development. Its observational nature, standardized scoring, and ease of administration make it invaluable for parents and healthcare professionals. While the score provides valuable information, it's crucial to consider the broader context and involve other healthcare providers for a comprehensive understanding of the infant's development. Early identification and intervention based on AIMS assessments can positively impact a child's long-term development.

FAQs

- Q1: Is the AIMS a diagnostic tool? No, the AIMS is an assessment tool that helps identify potential developmental delays. It does not provide a diagnosis. Further evaluation may be needed to determine any underlying medical conditions.
- Q2: Who can administer the AIMS? The AIMS should only be administered by trained professionals such as pediatricians, physical therapists, or occupational therapists who have received specific training in its administration and interpretation.
- Q3: How often should the AIMS be administered? The frequency of AIMS administration depends on the individual infant and their needs. It may be administered multiple times to monitor progress, especially if developmental delays are suspected.
- Q4: What if my child scores low on the AIMS? A low score doesn't necessarily mean there's a significant problem. It indicates a need for further evaluation and discussion with your healthcare provider to explore potential interventions and support.
- Q5: Is the AIMS suitable for all infants? While generally suitable, the AIMS may be less reliable for infants with severe medical conditions or significant neurological impairments. In such cases, alternative assessment methods might be more appropriate.

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physiotherapists, occupational therapists, developmental paediatricians, neuropaediatricians, and paediatric physiatrists.

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Gordon (USA); Martin Gough (UK); Richard L Lieber (USA); Jens Bo Nielsen (Denmark); Micah Perez (Australia); Caroline Teulier (France). This book provides a comprehensive overview of the challenges of motor development and the consequent impact of poor motor function in later childhood for infants with cerebral palsy (CP).Reviewed by: Oxford Brookes University on behalf of the British Journal of Occupational Therapy, Dec 2014 conceived and edited by Roberta Shepherd with contributions from internationally renowned expert clinicians and researchers discusses new research and new evidence-based treatment interventions shows how to organize very early and intensive physical activity in young infants to stimulate motor development and growth therapies include the specificity of training and exercise, with emphasis on promoting muscle activity and preventing contracture by active instead of passive stretching methods include new interactive technologies in enhancing home-based training sessions carried out by the infant's family extensive referencing in each chapter for further study chapters feature Annotations which illustrate scientific findings

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Hannah Brewer, Mary Renck Jalongo, 2018-06-19 This book focuses on improving well-being among
young children. It provides a theoretical base explaining why physical activity is important, and
offers practical strategies for increasing health and well-being in early childhood settings. It takes
ancient wisdom on the mind and body connection, applies it to the youngest children, and supports it
with current empirical and international evidence—all with an eye toward improving wellness across
the lifespan. The many topics discussed in the book include children's motor skills, movement,
interaction, physical literacy, the use of video games, dog ownership, developmental delays, as well
as strategies to improve physical activities in the classroom and broader contexts. In recent years,
children's health has become a priority worldwide. Topics such as "screen time" "sedentary
behavior" and "childhood obesity" have become important issues everywhere- in the news, in

schools, in community and commercials settings, and among health care providers. Limiting sedentary behavior, increasing physical activity, and maintaining a nutritious diet are three fundamental needs during early childhood. Preschool years are a time when children begin to explore the world around them, and develop more vivid understandings of their surroundings. As this book shows, the early years may be the best time to teach wellness concepts and assist young children in establishing healthy lifestyle habits.

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either with established scientists or independently in order to pursue questions of interest. This unique volume leads the reader through the process of test development step-by-step, including identification of a concept that should be subjected to testing, development of appropriate test items, and the procedures for standarizing a norm-referenced test. Not only will professionals learn to develop new tests, but they will also increase their understanding of the process of test development for instruments which are already available.

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settings

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alberta infant motor scale: Safe Boating Guide, 1995

alberta infant motor scale: Campbell's Physical Therapy for Children Robert Palisano, PT ScD (Distinguished Professor Emeritus Drexel University Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Sciences Philadelphia PA), 2016-12-13 Get all the pediatric physical therapy background and guidance you need with Campbell's Physical Therapy for Children Expert Consult, 5th Edition. Insightful and comprehensive coverage walks you through all aspects of working with children, including: decision making, screening, development, motor control and motor learning, the impairments of body function and structure, and the PT management of pediatric disorders. Like the previous bestselling editions, this edition also follows the practice pattern categories of the Guide to Physical Therapist Practice and uses the IFC model of the disabling process as it presents up-to-date, evidence-based coverage of treatment. New to this edition are a number of added and extensively revised chapters - covering topics such as tests and measures, autism spectrum disorder, pediatric oncology, and the neonatal intensive care unit - to keep you at the cutting edge of the latest issues and best-practices. Finally, with it's wealth of online resources and learning aids, you'll have all the tools and support you need to tackle every aspect of pediatric physical therapy! Focus on the International Classification of Function, Disability, and Health (ICF) of the World Health Organization (WHO) emphasizes activity rather than functional limitations and participation rather than disability. Incorporation of practice pattern guidelines from the Guide to Physical Therapist Practice, 2nd Edition sets the standard for physical therapy practice. Comprehensive reference offers a thorough understanding of all aspects of pediatric physical therapy, including: decision making, screening, development, motor control, and motor learning, the impairments of body function and structure, and the PT management of pediatric disorders. Expert authorship and editors lend their experience and guidance for on-the-job success. Variety of user resources to enhance study include review questions, critical questions, and additional resources and activities.

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alberta infant motor scale: Human Lactation 2 M. Hamosh, A.S. Goldman, 2012-12-12 The International Workshop on human lactation dedicated specifically to the topic of Maternal and Environmental Effects on Lactation repre sents the recent progress of research in human lactation. Only four years ago it was clear that we do not yet have sensitive research techniques specifically adapted to the study of human milk. This need was addressed by an NIH convened workshop in 1982, the concensus being that appropriate methods have to be developed for the study of the composition of human milk. The progress in the development of these techniques was the subject of the second workshop on human lactation, dedicated specifically to Milk Components and Methodologies. The workshop was held in Colorado in 1984 and resulted in the publication of the first volume in the series of Human Lactation. At the Colorado meeting it was readily apparent that considerable progress has been made in the development of sensitive techniques able to quantitate the bioactive components of human milk (enzymes, growth factors, immuno-protective agents) as well as the macro, micro and trace elements. At the Colorado workshop it became clear that these workshops greatly benefit the research of human lactation by enhancing communication and collaboration among the investigators in the field. As a result it was decided to have a future workshop about a year later on the topic of Maternal-Environmental Effects on Human Lacta tion, and I was charged with chairing it.

alberta infant motor scale: Pediatric Physical Therapy Jan Stephen Tecklin, 1994-01-01 Now thoroughly updated, this Third Edition provides an overview of the knowledge and skills required for current practice in the physical rehabilitation of children. Readers will learn to integrate essential information into a physical therapy evaluation and treatment plan. Organized by disability and diseases, then by specialty, the text addresses the most current information on each disability, and presents evaluation techniques and suitable interventions. Unlike other books, this unique guide covers neurological disorders, neuromuscular problems, developmental disabilities, orthopedic and cardiopulmonary disorders -- all in chapters written by recognized experts. Noteworthy in this edition: coverage of orthopedic and limb deficiency, traumatic brain injury, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, and assistive devices.

alberta infant motor scale: Biobehavioral Assessment of the Infant Lynn Twarog Singer, Philip Sanford Zeskind, PhD, Recent decades have seen the emergence of many new biobehavioral assessment tools for the newborn and young infant. These instruments have tremendous utility for scientists and practitioners engaged in exploring basic questions of development, studying medical and developmental conditions that place infants at risk, diagnosing the severity of biobehavioral insult, and evaluating the effectiveness of ameliorative interventions. Yet until now there has been no single volume providing an organized, critical examination of available assessment tools. Filling a crucial gap in the literature, this book describes a wide range of approaches to evaluating growth, sensation, arousal, regulation, learning, and attention in the prenatal period and the first year of life. Leading experts describe the historical background and development of each tool; review its diagnostic, methodological, and conceptual utility; highlight strengths and limitations for different uses; and consider broader implications for understanding the development of infants at risk.

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