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Hands on strategies to improve the access of children to visual evaluation

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Statement of the Problem: It is important to access the visual acuity of children before the age of six or seven, when the connections of the central neural pathways related to vision enter into another stage of development. If one finds a decrease in vision before this age, it is easier to conduct the necessary corrections. After these, the strategies for improving the acuity become less effective. But most of the scales that are used to access such ability, like Snellen, Landolt, etc. are of difficult understanding for them because they are in the early years of education. So, it might be useful to have a scale easier of understanding for children.

Methodology & Theoretical Orientation: The Hands from Evaldo (Mãos de Evaldo) were designed by a Brazilian University Professor, Evaldo de Mendonça Campos (1915-2003), who draw a hand with only four fingers which size and form are related to the visual scales available (Figure 1&2). The examiner is going to turn the picture to different positions and is going to ask the child to reproduce the hand of the picture with its own hand.

Findings: Children in preschool age can understand and perform the test in a manner easier than it would do with other scales.

Conclusion & Significance: This test is easy to perform, maybe easier than the others, cheap to acquire, and could be used in screening of children at the critical age.

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