Purpose

- Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (DD) are characterized by limitations in cognitive ability as well as adaptive behaviour, which may include difficulties in self-care, communication, and social skills (APA, 2013)
- Compared to typically developing children, those with DD also tend to display more behaviour problems (Baker, 2003)
- The Scales of Independent Behavior-Revised (SIB-R; Bruininks et al., 1996) is a widely used measure of adaptive and maladaptive behaviour; however, even in its short form (40 items), it takes a long time to complete for survey research
- A recent alternative measure for adaptive behaviour is the Waisman Activities of Daily Living (W-ADL) Scale, a 17-item measure of daily activities for adolescents and adults with DD, available at no cost. Analyses indicate strong reliability and validity for the W-ADL (Maenner et al., 2013)
  - However, this measure does not address maladaptive behaviour and was not designed for a younger sample
  - It is important to effectively and efficiently measure the levels of adaptive and maladaptive functioning in children with DD for many research applications

Objective 1: Reliability of the GO4KIDDS measures
- GO4KIDDS measures were developed for research purposes, based on knowledge of other adaptive measures and clinical experience, especially for children and adolescents with DD who have more severe needs
  - **Adaptive Scale:**
    - 8 items covering support needs, communication, socialization, and self-help skills
    - Each item is rated on a 5-point scale, with higher scores indicating greater skill level and independence
  - **Maladaptive Scale:**
    - 4 items regarding self-injurious behaviour, stereotyped behaviours, aggressive/destructive behaviours (Rojahn et al., 2001), and mental health issues

Objective 2: Validity of the GO4KIDDS measures

Background

- The GO4KIDDS Brief Adaptive and Maladaptive Scales were developed for research purposes, based on knowledge of other adaptive measures and clinical experience, especially for children and adolescents with DD who have more severe needs
- **Adaptive Scale:**
  - 8 items covering support needs, communication, socialization, and self-help skills
  - Each item is rated on a 5-point scale, with higher scores indicating greater skill level and independence
- **Maladaptive Scale:**
  - 4 items regarding self-injurious behaviour, stereotyped behaviours, aggressive/destructive behaviours (Rojahn et al., 2001), and mental health issues

Results

- **Internal consistency for the Adaptive Scale:** $\alpha = .87$
- **Internal consistency for the Maladaptive Scale:** $\alpha = .64$

### Measures

**GO4KIDDS BRIEF ADAPTIVE AND MALADAPTIVE SCALES**
Azin Taheri, Victoria Ting, Adrienne Perry, & Jonathan Weiss
York University, Toronto, Canada

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- **Adaptive Scale:**
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Results (Cont’d)

- **Criterion-related Validity of the Adaptive Scale**
  - Correlation of the GO4KIDDS Adaptive Scores and SIB-R Adaptive Raw Scores
  - Correlation of the GO4KIDDS Adaptive Scores and SIB-R W-Scores
- **Criterion-related Validity of the Maladaptive Scale**
  - Correlation of the GO4KIDDS Maladaptive Scores and SIB-R Maladaptive Index

Discussion

- Results indicate that the GO4KIDDS Adaptive Scale has good reliability and validity
  - The internal consistency of the scale was very high ($\alpha = .87$) with item-total correlations ranging from .44 to .73
  - The correlation of the total score of the Adaptive Scale with the SIB-R Broad Independence W score was high ($r = .81$, $p < .001$), suggesting good validity of the new measure
- The GO4KIDDS Maladaptive Scale has moderate reliability and validity
  - The internal consistency of the scale was acceptable ($\alpha = .64$) with item-total correlations ranging from .25 to .45
  - The correlation of the total score of the Maladaptive Scale was negatively correlated with the SIB-R Maladaptive Index
- The GO4KIDDS Brief Scales appear to be efficient and practical for quantifying adaptive and maladaptive behaviour for children with DD
  - It is not intended to be used for clinical purposes but seems to be useful for survey research where brief measures are needed

Method

- The Great Outcomes for Kids Impacted by Severe Developmental Disabilities (GO4KIDDS) is a project which explores the health, well-being, and social inclusion of Canadian school-aged children with severe DD and complex needs

Objective 1: Reliability of the GO4KIDDS measures
- **N = 432** parents of children with DD completed the GO4KIDDS Basic Survey
- 11% completed the survey in French
- Diagnosis: 42% DD, 55% ASD and DD
- Age: 3-20 years ($M = 11.3$)
- Gender: 71% boys

Objective 2: Validity of the GO4KIDDS measures
- **N = 204** parents of the larger subgroup ($n = 432$) completed the GO4KIDDS Extended Survey
- Diagnosis: 40% DD, 58% ASD and DD
- Age: 3-19 years ($M = 10.9$)
- Gender: 71% boys

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank the families who contributed their time by completing the survey.
Data for this study were collected as part of the CIHR Team: GO4KIDDS: Great Outcomes for Kids Impacted by Severe Developmental Disabilities, Nominated Principal Investigator: Adrienne Perry, York University.
[www.go4kidds.ca]