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## Background

- Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (DD) are characterized by limitations in cognitive ability as well as adaptive behavior, which may include difficulties in self-care, communication, and social skills (Matson & Mulick, 1991)
- 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; Bruiniks et al., 1996), a widely used measure of adaptive and maladaptive behaviour, takes a long time to complete, even in its short form (40 items)
- 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

## Purpose and Research Questions

The purpose of this study was to investigate the measurement properties of the GO4KIDDS Brief Measure of Adaptive and Maladaptive Behaviour:

- (1) Examine internal consistency of the GO4KIDDS measure
- (2) Examine criterion-related validity of the GO4KIDDS measure in relation to the SIB-R Short Form

## Method

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

### Participants

- $n=198$  caregivers of children with DD
- Child age: 3-19 years ( $m=10.9$ ,  $SD=3.5$ )
  - 143 boys (72%), 52 girls (26%)
  - 116 with an ASD based on parent report (59%)

## Measures

- The GO4KIDDS team developed a Brief Measure of Adaptive and Maladaptive Behaviour found in the Basic Survey
  - The adaptive scale includes 6 questions on three behavioural domains: daily living, communication and social skills
  - The maladaptive scale includes 4 questions regarding self-injurious behaviour, stereotyped behaviours, aggressive/destructive behaviours (Rojahn et al., 2001), and mental health issues
- SIB-R Short Form (Bruiniks et al., 1996), included in the GO4KIDDS Extended Survey, has good reliability and construct, content and predictive validity

## Results

- Internal consistency for the Adaptive scale was  $\alpha = .87$
- Internal consistency for the Maladaptive scale was  $\alpha = .64$

### Inter-Item Correlation for Adaptive Scale

	Rec Lang	Exp Lang	Social	Eating	Toileting	Dressing
Lvl of Support	.49*	.56*	.27*	.58*	.55*	.62*
Rec Lang		.56*	.39*	.46*	.52*	.47*
Exp Lang			.39*	.58*	.60*	.59*
Social				.34*	.21*	.24*
Eating					.67*	.72*
Toileting						.73*

\*  $p < .001$

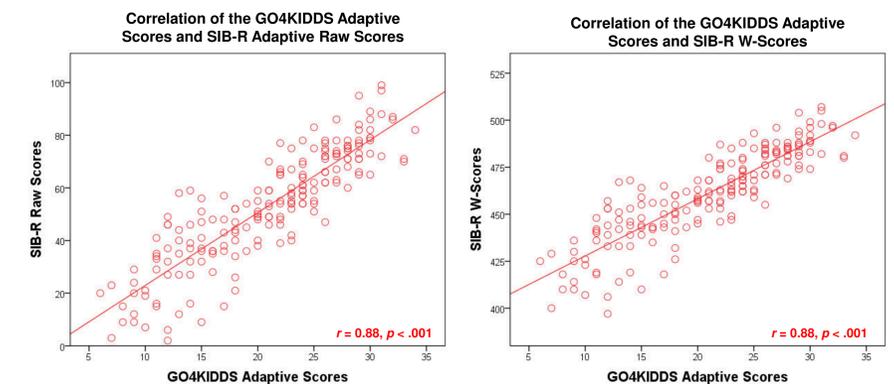
### Inter-Item Correlation for Maladaptive Scale

	Stereotyped Behaviours	Aggressive/ Destructive Behaviours	Mental Health Issues
Self-Injurious Behaviours	.21*	.47*	.36*
Stereotyped Behaviours		.21*	.29*
Aggressive/ Destructive Behaviours			.37*

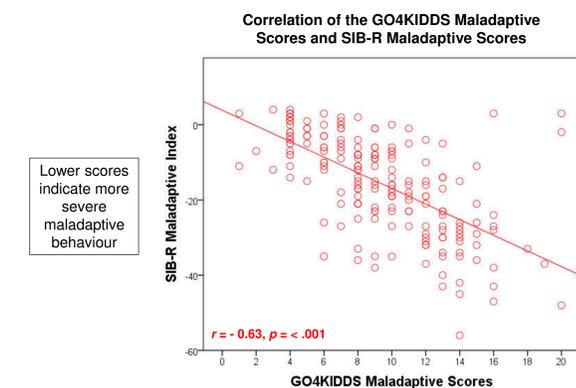
\*  $p < .001$

## Results (Cont'd)

### Criterion-related Validity of the Adaptive scale



### Criterion-related Validity of the Maladaptive scale



## Discussion

- Results indicate that the Adaptive scale of the GO4KIDDS Brief Measure has good reliability and validity
  - $\alpha = .87$  and the total score for the adaptive scale (sum of the 6 items) was highly correlated with the SIB-R Raw Scores and W-Scores
- The Maladaptive scale has moderate reliability and validity
  - $\alpha = .64$  and the sum of the maladaptive items was negatively correlated with the SIB-R general maladaptive index
- The GO4KIDDS Brief Measure appears 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

## Acknowledgments

We would like to thank the families who contributed their time by completing the survey.

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([www.go4kidds.ca](http://www.go4kidds.ca))