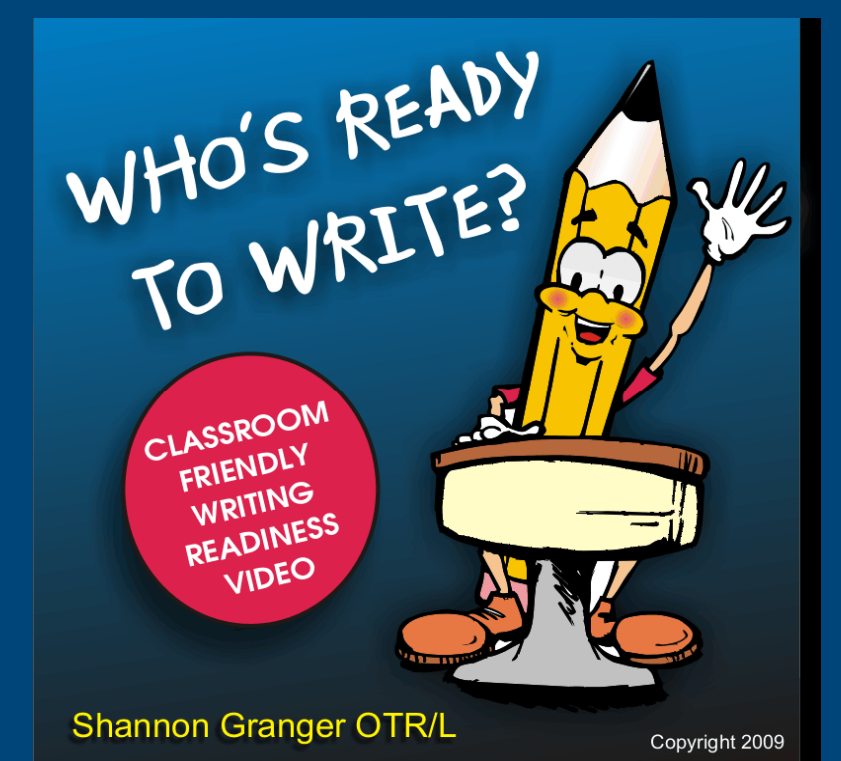


“Who’s Ready to Write?” In-Class Writing Readiness Support Tool

Shannon Granger OTR/L



Writing Readiness

➤ Readiness skills are described as foundational skills that are present before a child learns a new task.

➤ Writing readiness is required for a child to truly benefit from handwriting instruction.

➤ Writing Readiness illustrates that fine motor tasks are an important part of elementary school participation.

➤ For the children who display fine motor difficulty the teacher’s role to modify work, differentiated instruction, and accommodated the curriculum based on the child’s motor abilities is vital to a child’s success and maintenance of self esteem throughout elementary school.

Writing Readiness Skills

Writing Readiness has been described and identified by Benbow, Hanft and Marsh (1992) as:

1. Dominant hand use
2. Midline crossing with the dominant hand
3. Proper posture and pencil grip
4. The ability to copy the first nine shapes of the Developmental Test of Visual Motor Integration

(Marr, Windsor, and Cermak, 2001.)

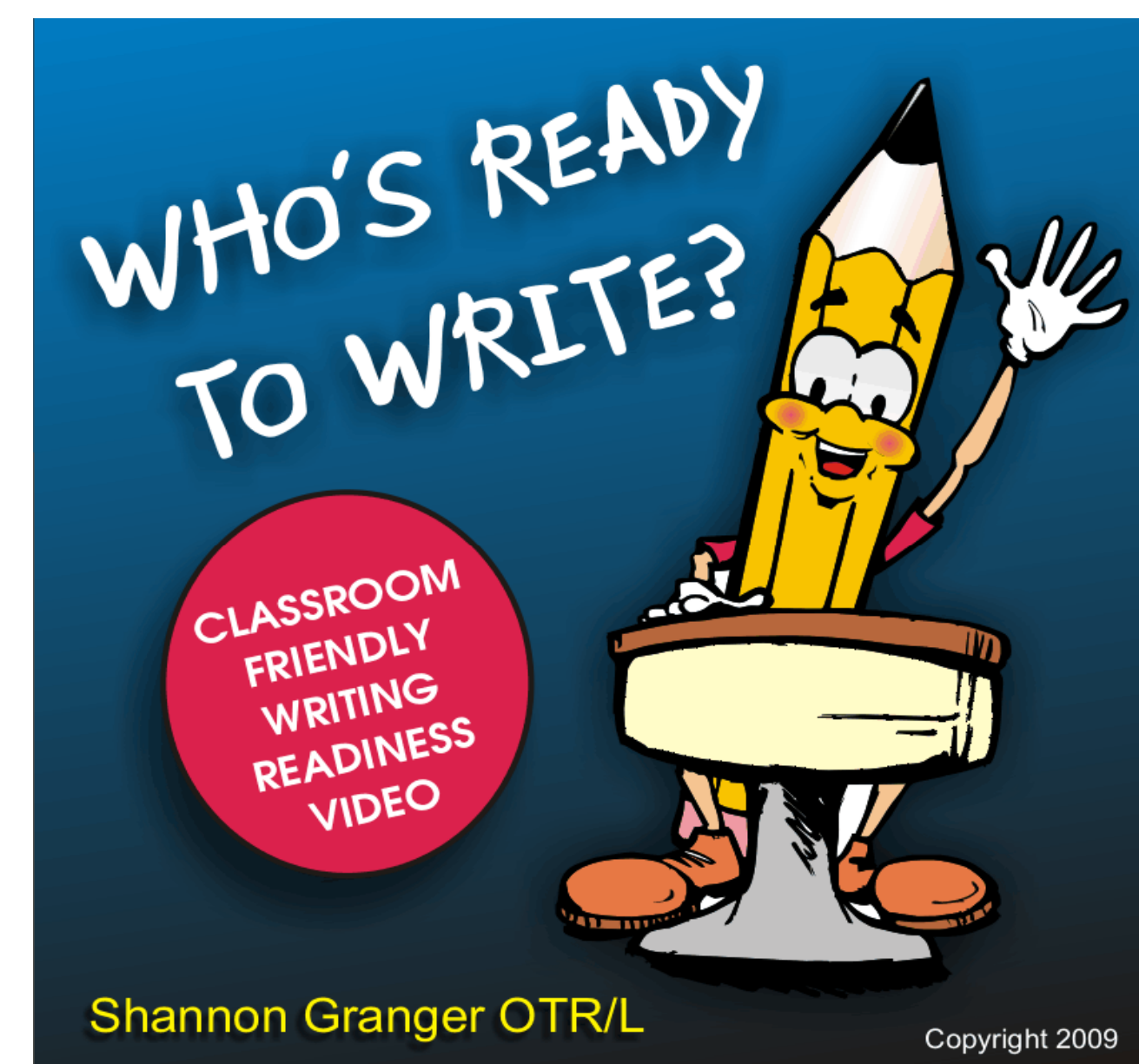
Statistics

➤ A study conducted by McHale & Cermak (1992) found that 85% of the time was spent on paper and pencil tasks and 15% was spent on manipulative tasks in school.

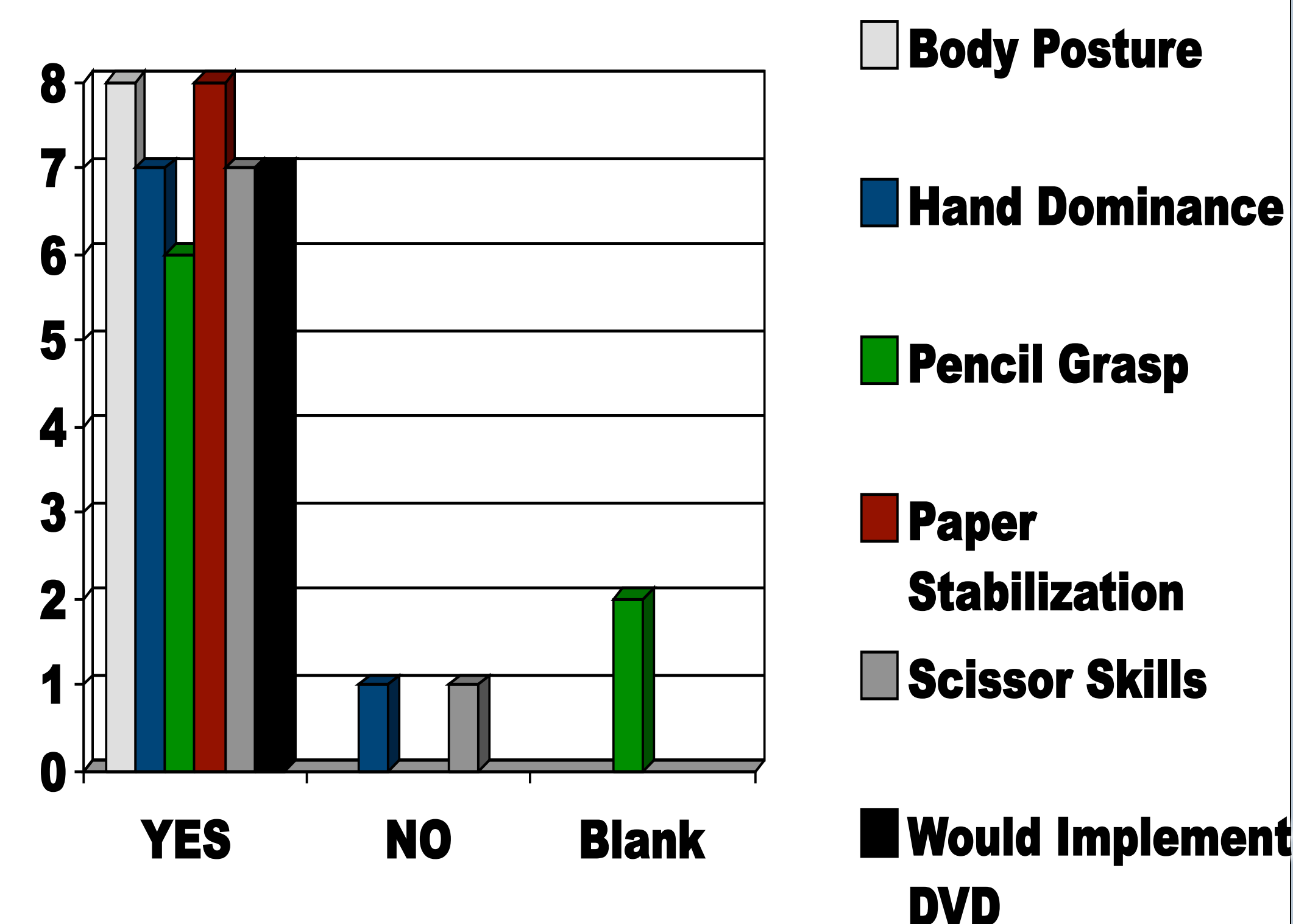
➤ The range of fine motors skills required throughout a school day was identified from 31% to 60%, which is about 1/3 of the school day.



VIDEO



Initial Teacher Survey Results



Motor Control Theory Supports the Development of Writing Readiness Skills

➤ Motor control is defined as the “ability to regulate or direct the mechanisms essential to movement” (Shunway-Cook & Woollacott, 2007, p.4).

➤ As OT’s our goals are to provide intervention to help children learn and regain motor function to increase their daily participation (O’Brien, J. & Lewin, J.E. 2008.)

➤ Skills required for adequate motor control are posture, mobility, and fine/gross motor skills.

➤ Motor learning research provides information that multiple parts of the brain increase motor learning.

➤ Research on the principals of contemporary motor control states that children learn movement best when in natural contexts to learn daily occupations.



Additional Data Collection Pre & Post Video implementation

| WRITING READINESS AWARENESS | A | B | C | D |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| 1. If a student's feet are dangling when they are seated in a chair, how could you correct the student's body posture during paper and pencil tasks? | Have them sit on their feet. | Place a box under his feet. | Have them wrap their legs around the chair. | Put a piece of resistive band around the foot of their chair. |
| 2. What is a good strategy to reinforce a student's hand dominance? | Present items in the student's midline. | Allow switching due to the child's fatigue. | Have the student wear a bracelet on dominant hand. | Both answers A & C |
| 3. When instructing a student to use a desired pencil grasp, up to how many fingers should they have on the pencil shaft? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| 4. True or False to correct way to tilt the students paper is for: Left handed- Upper left hand corner higher Right handed- Upper right hand corner higher | True | False | | |
| 5. How can you reinforce paper stabilization to? | Verbal cues to have the student use their helping hand | Tape the paper down on the table. | Use a clipboard | All of the above |
| 6. How often have you used this video? | Once | Few (2-4 times/week) | Frequently (Daily) | Never |

Video Objectives

1. The video will help describe to teachers the importance of writing readiness skills that are needed to be in place to ensure success with writing.
2. If the teachers are confident and comfortable in teaching these skills to their students then success will be achieved.
3. By teachers enforcing writing readiness skills to their students they will inadvertently change poor habits or develop efficiency in their students skills.
4. This is an evidence based program for collaboration with Teachers and the OT.

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Contact information

“Who’s Ready to Write?”
In-Class Writing Readiness Support Tool

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