Who should attend?
This two-day course is geared toward experienced occupational and physical therapists, and researchers working with children with all types of congenital hemiplegia, including cerebral palsy, in utero stroke, and brachial plexus injury.

Overview of course
The Assisting Hand Assessment (AHA) measures and describes how effectively a child with unilateral hand dysfunction uses his or her involved hand collaboratively with the other well-functioning hand to perform bimanual tasks. For children, the AHA is an enjoyable 10- to 15-minute semi-structured play session using a test kit of selected toys requiring bimanual use. The AHA is then scored from structured video recordings of the observable performance skills during this play. AHA is a standardized test intended for children with unilateral cerebral palsy or brachial plexus palsy between the ages of 18 months and 12 years.

Validity and reliability of the AHA scores are well documented. AHA has been used as the principal outcome measure in several studies, e.g., in studies evaluating constraint-induced movement therapy, and has demonstrated evidence of responsiveness to change.

This course teaches the reliable use of the AHA in two steps. The first step involves a two-day workshop in which participants will learn about the constructs underlying the AHA and test procedures, including the new play session and test items. Participants will also practice scoring. A manual with details about scoring criteria and a computer-based scoring form will be provided. Following the course, participants will be required to achieve satisfactory scoring of test cases, which will be provided by videos and self-produced play sessions.

Hosted by Kennedy Krieger Institute, Fairmount Rehabilitation Programs

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