**Skill Mastery in Typically Developing Children Using the Gillette Functional Assessment Questionnaire: Establishing Standards in Children of School Age**

Jean L. Stout¹, MS, PT, Tom F. Novacheck, MD¹,², Raymond Tervo, MD¹,²

¹ Gillette Children’s Specialty Healthcare, St. Paul, USA ² University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA

### Introduction

The Gillette Functional Assessment Questionnaire (FAQ) is a self or parent report tool which consists of a 10-Level Walking Scale and a 22-Item Skill Set of activities more advanced than walking. The items in the skill set span a broad developmental range and levels of walking ability. Previous work has demonstrated that not all skills assessed in the 22-item skill set are mastered before children enter school despite attainment of the highest walking level. It is important to establish how typically developing (TD) school age children perform on the skill set across a range of ages to better understand and interpret the performance of children with disabilities.

The purpose of this project is to:

- Describe the performance of TD school-age children on the FAQ 22-item skill set and determine the age-range of motor development the skill set represents.

### Clinical Significance

Interpretation of the FAQ data for school-age children with disabilities is enhanced by an understanding of how typically developing children perform.

### Clinical Scenario:

Jenna is a 6-year old with Cerebral Palsy, GMFCS Level II. She is s/p SDR and is rated at a Level 10 on the FAQ walking scale. She is able to perform 18 of 22 skills in the skill set.

### Are the skills she is able to perform appropriate for her age?

Based on current findings, Jenna would not be expected to jump rope, ice skate on roller skate, or ride a two wheel bike based for her age of 6 years. She would, however, be expected to walk up and down stairs using a railing. Her inability to do this is consistent with her GMFCS level. Previously reported data indicate the skills she is able to perform are consistent with an FAQ Walking Level 10. The difficulty she experiences in performance of some skills indicate an FAQ Walking Level 9 may be appropriate as well.

### The FAQ assesses a broader range of motor skills than most instruments. All typically developing school-age children have achieved a rating of 10 on the FAQ Walking scale by the age of 5 years. Capability to perform the three most advanced skills of the 22-item skill set extends into the school-age years. This data suggests the age of attainment for these skills is later than previously reported. Results from this study enhance FAQ interpretation for children with walking dysfunction like Jenna. Additional data is needed to further validate these findings. Future directions include Rasch analysis to determine the item difficulty and person ability on a common interval scale, and data collection in a group of children with variants of typical development such as ligamentous laxity.

### Conclusion and Future Directions

The FAQ assesses a broader range of motor skills than most instruments. All typically developing school-age children have achieved a rating of 10 on the FAQ Walking scale by the age of 5 years. Capability to perform the three most advanced skills of the 22-item skill set extends into the school-age years. This data suggests the age of attainment for these skills is later than previously reported. Results from this study enhance FAQ interpretation for children with walking dysfunction like Jenna. Additional data is needed to further validate these findings. Future directions include Rasch analysis to determine the item difficulty and person ability on a common interval scale, and data collection in a group of children with variants of typical development such as ligamentous laxity.

### References


This study is supported in part by a Medical Education and Research Grant from Gillette Children’s Specialty Healthcare.