WHAT SHOULD BE CLASSIFIED IN MINI-MACS
The children’s ability to handle objects in daily life

BACKGROUND
The Manual Ability Classification System has been used for children with CP, 4-18 years of age. Being able to classify children at younger age has been requested

OBJECTIVES
To develop the Mini-MACS and to investigate validity and reliability of the outcomes by evaluating parent’s and occupational therapist’s classifications of manual ability of children below four years of age.

METHOD - Development of the Mini-MACS in three steps
- Minimal adjustment of MACS, tested in a pilot project.
- Parent interviews, adjustments and consensus discussions within an expert group
- Evaluation of Mini-MACS for validity and interrater reliability

RESULT - Absolute agreement
Adjustments of MACS concerned
The child’s ability in relation to age was reinforced
The wordings “independence”, and “preparation and modification of activities” were omitted. The wordings “task performance” and “activity” was replaced by actions

EXPERIENCES
Parents and occupational therapists recognized the children’s ability in the description in the Mini-MACS. The descriptions were found to be good and easy to understand

CONCLUSIONS
- The Mini-MACS appears to be applicable and easy to understand
- The interrater reliability was high for both parents and therapists ratings
- Involving parents to classify their child’s manual ability provides essential information in describing their manual ability
- The leaflet will later be available and free to use from the www.macs.nu