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FACULTY OF SPORT AND HEALTH SCIENCES

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PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PARENTING IN CHILDREN AT-RISK OF DEVELOPMENTAL COORDINATION DISORDER

BACKGROUND

It is generally known that the support parents provide to their children's physical activity (PA), i.e. physical activity parenting (PAP), plays a key role in children's PA and motor development.

Very little is known how parents provide support to their children who are at risk of developmental coordination disorder (DCD) compared to the parents with typically developing children.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

This study examined how parents provide support to their children who are at risk of DCD compared to the parents with typically developing children.

The Skilled Kids study in numbers

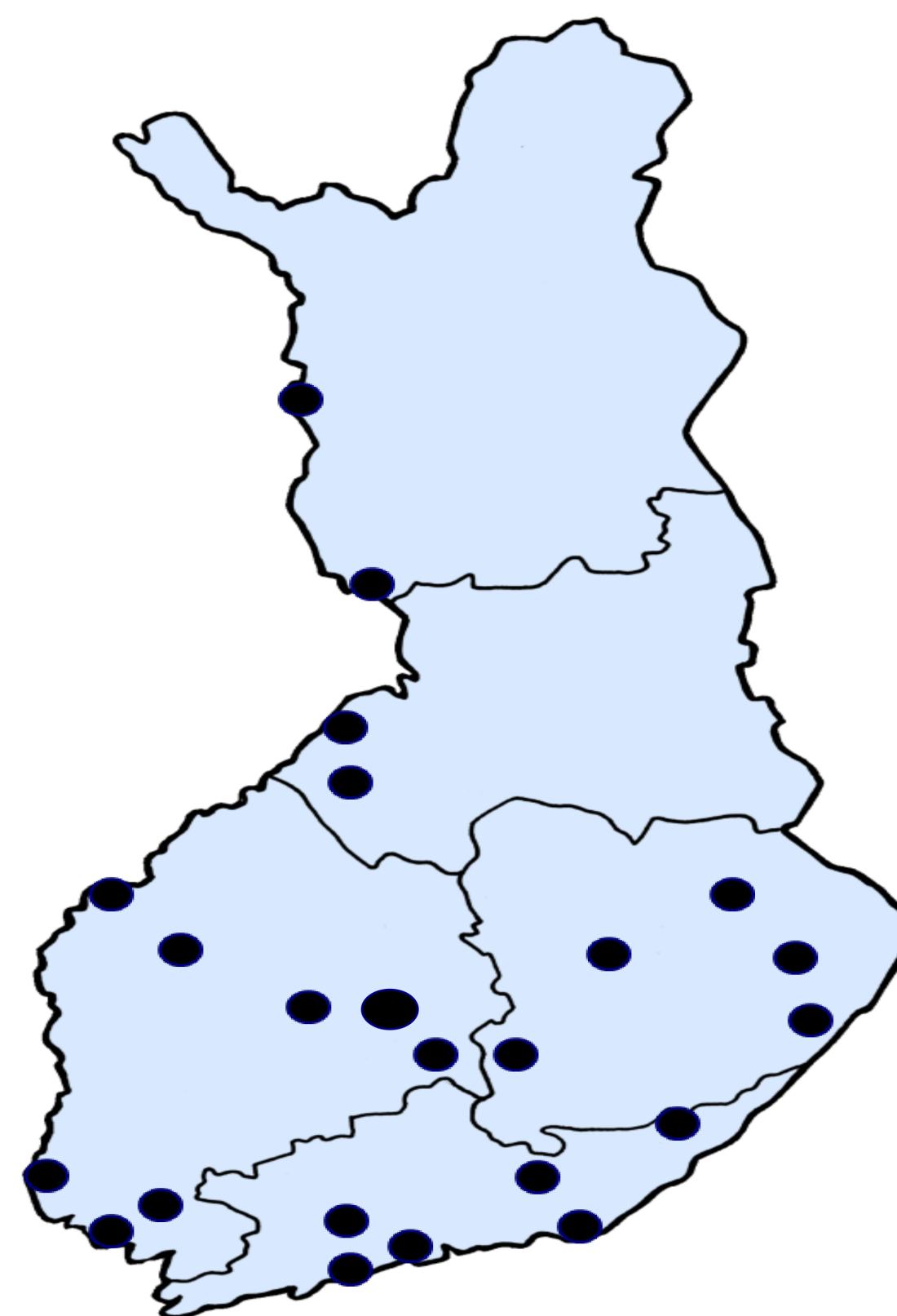
23
localities

38
kindergarten

1239
participants

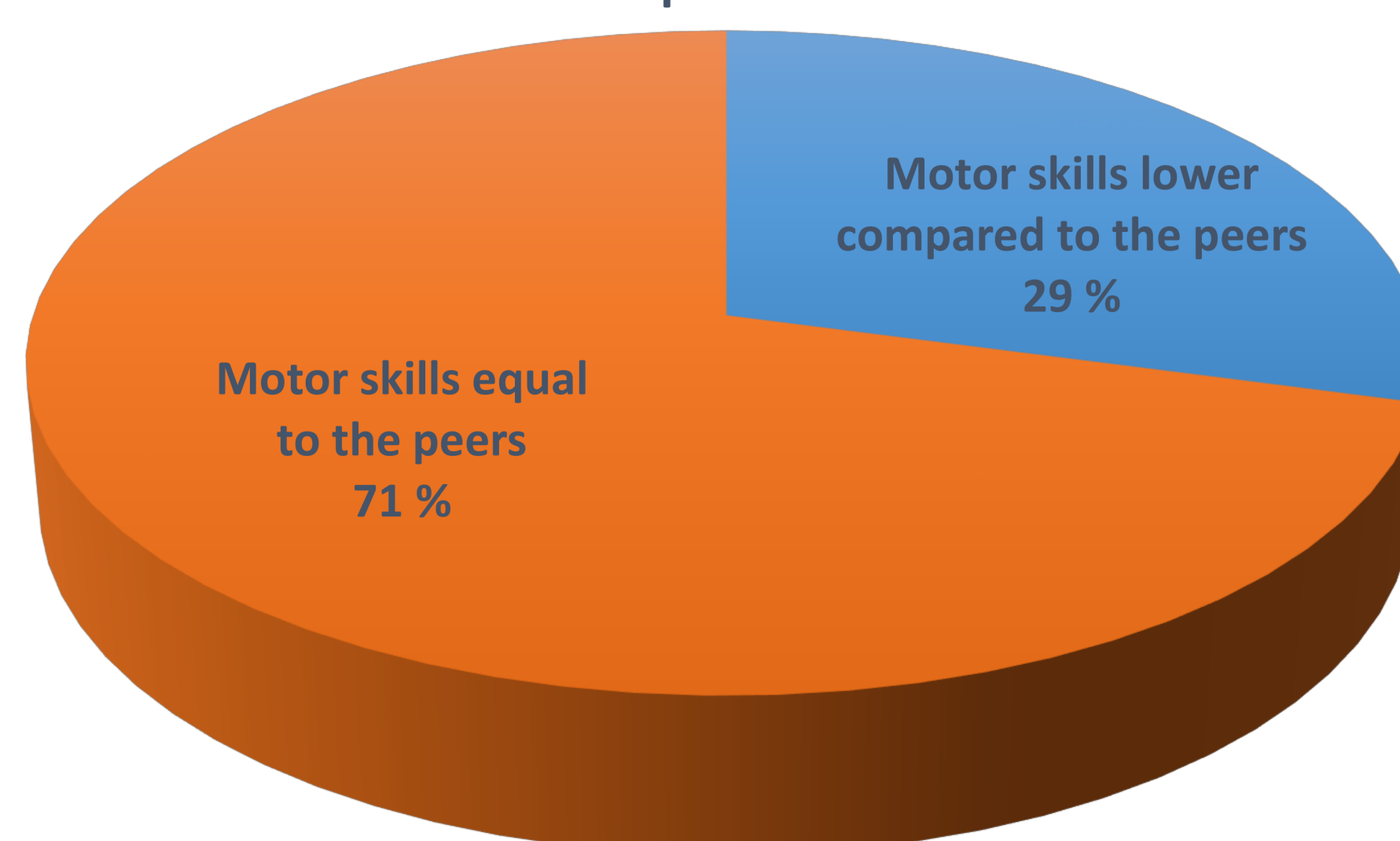
520
KTK

1111
questionnaires



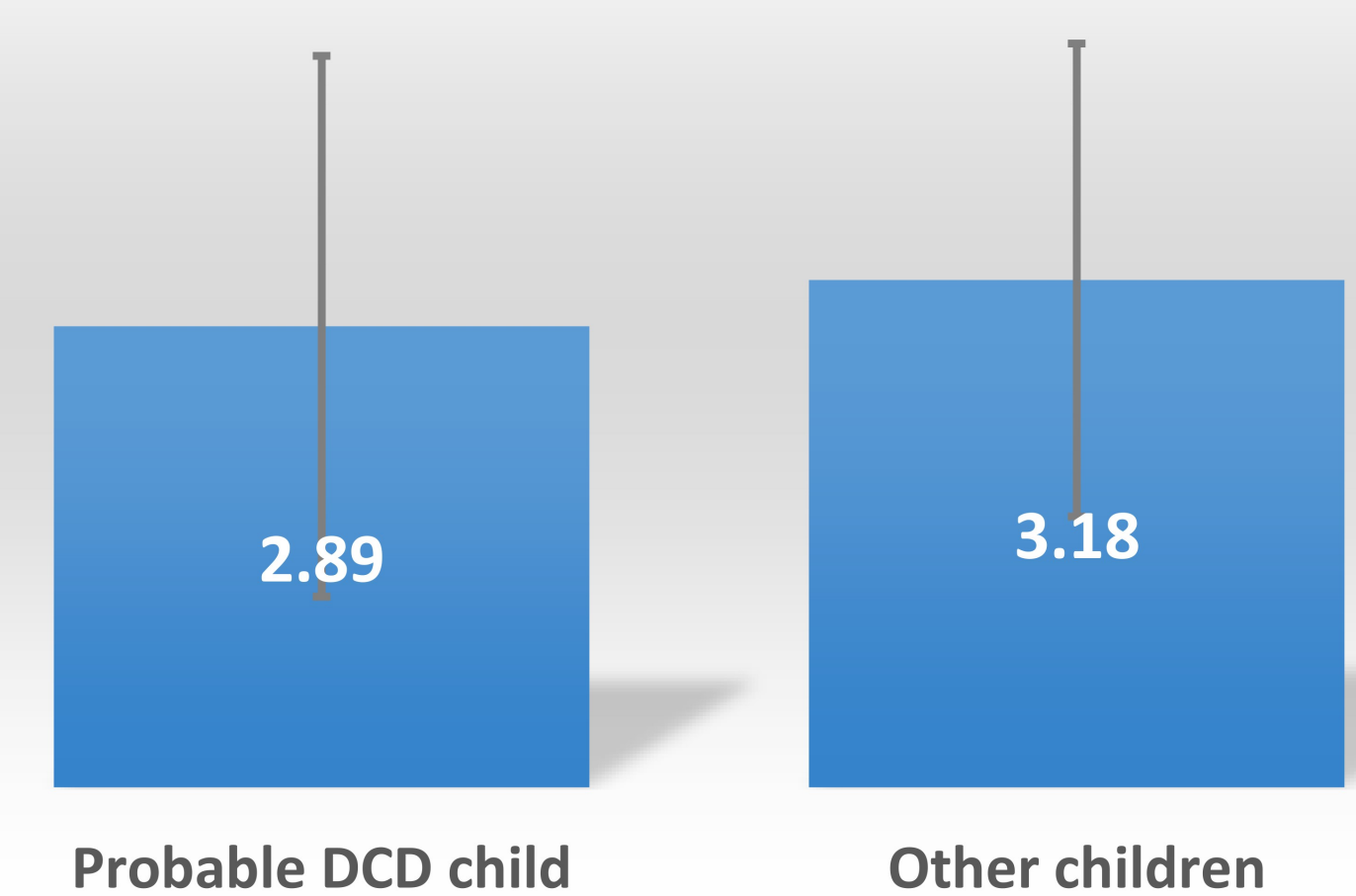
RESULTS

Parental evaluation of motor skills in children with probable DCD

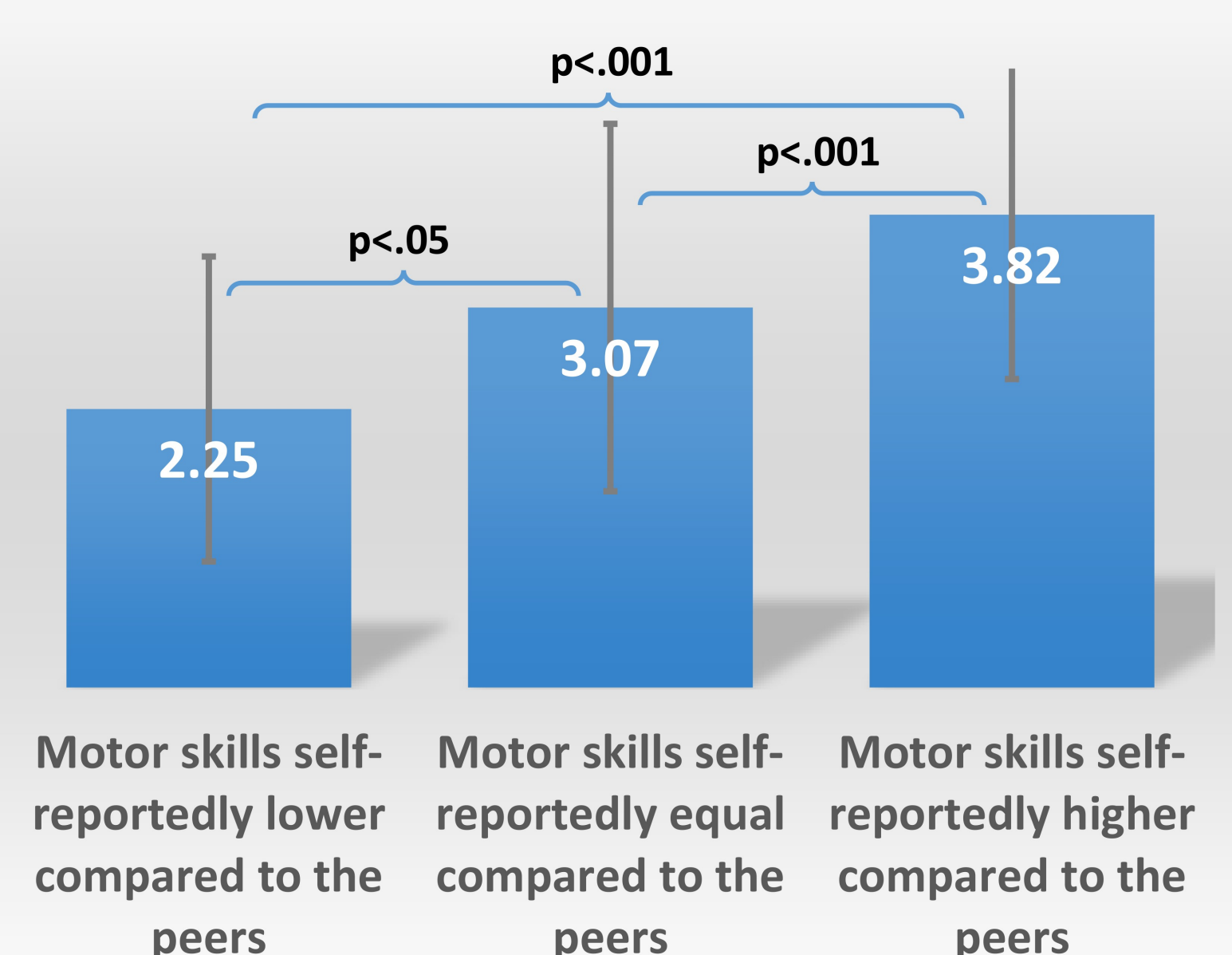


Skilled Kids researchers: Arja Sääkslahti (pink), Donna Niemistö (blue), Arto Laukkanen (green), Veera Nissinen (light pink), Elisa Korhonen (purple).

Frequency of parental support for child's physical activity (times/week)



Frequency of parental support for child's physical activity (times/week)



CONCLUSIONS

- The amount of parental support for physical activity seems lower in children whose parents self-reportedly evaluate the child's motor skills to be worse compared to the peers
- However, there was no difference in parental support between children with objectively assessed pDCD and the other children
- There may be a detrimental interdependence between physical activity parenting and children's motor problems: weak motor skills may discourage parental support, and low level of support may impede motor development
- Early identification of the detrimental interdependence might enhance children's motor development.

Additional information, homepages of the projects:
<https://www.jyu.fi/sport/fi/tutkimus/hankkeet/taitavat-tenavat>
<https://www.jyu.fi/sport/fi/tutkimus/hankkeet/liikkuva-perhe>

Arto's home pages:

