CHAPTER 6

CONCLUSION

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

This research study confirms the need for South African normative data for the Beery-Buktenica Developmental Test of visual-motor integration with the supplemental Developmental Tests of Visual Perception and Motor Coordination. Further research is needed to compile this data for all age groups in South Africa. It would be extremely beneficial to start collecting data for the pre-primary and early primary school groups, since Beery specifically states in his manual that this was the age group these tests were actually intended for\(^{(4)}\). The correct interpretation of test raw scores would result in more effective treatment and recommendations, especially for the many HIV positive children in South Africa.

There is a need to conduct similar studies in other major areas or cities in South Africa to make the results more transferable to the general South African population, since it is a concern that this study did not include the Indian population at all. The Beery VMI is the fifth edition of the test and focuses strongly on intervention for the difficulties identified in the test\(^{(46)}\). This adds to the value of the test, not only providing an assessment, but also a solution. The Beery VMI is widely considered as a well researched and valid assessment\(^{(46)}\). It was standardized five times between the first edition in 1964 and the fifth edition in 2004, involving more than 11 0000 children in the standardization process\(^{(46)}\). The reliability and validity of the VMI test and supplemental tests are higher than .90 which emphasises the fact that it would be an excellent choice for a national standardization process in South Africa\(^{(46)}\). The interscorer reliability was repeated for the fifth edition’s norming study and it was .92 for the Beery VMI, .98 for the STVP and .93 for the STMC\(^{(46)}\). These excellent results open the possibility of having many assessors perform the tests all through South Africa as part of a national standardization process.
Further research could be done to determine why African children have difficulties with visual-motor integration as a skill, yet they can obtain scores within normal limits on the STMC. Further research of the motor development of African children could highlight why not even one child in this study had difficulties when assessed on the STMC.

Future research studies done on the VMI test and two supplemental tests could exclude gender differences as a variable, since this study once again confirmed that gender does not influence performance on these test.

Studying this fascinating skill confirms once again the accurate words of Beery:

"The VMI is designed to measure the hyphen in the term visual-motor integration on the premise that a whole can be greater than the sum of its parts, and that the parts may function well independently but not in combination."(4) (p.19)

This cannot be the end but only the beginning.