Exploring the international uptake of the ‘F-words in Childhood Disability’: A citation analysis
Alice Kelen Soper1,2, Andrea Cross1,3, Peter Rosenbaum1,4 and Jan Willem Gorter1,4

1CanChild Centre for Childhood Disability Research, 2Faculty of Health Sciences, 3School of Rehabilitation Science, 4Department of Pediatrics, McMaster University

Background
This citation analysis explores the uptake of the ‘F-words’, introduced in Rosenbaum & Gorter’s (2012) paper titled, “The F-words in Childhood Disability; I swear this is how we should think!”

The ‘F-words’ operationalize the World Health Organization’s (2001) International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) framework (Figure 1).

Methods
- Searched Google Scholar, Wiley Online, and Web of Science for ‘F-words’ paper citations.
- Extracted dates of publication and locations (i.e., country of first author).
- Developed a taxonomy categorizing usage of ‘F-words’ paper citations (cited/referenced, non-English, and integrated/informed).

Objective 1: Rate and reach of uptake of the ‘F-words’
Researchers from 26 countries have cited the ‘F-words’ paper (Figure 2) and the number of citations has continued to increase since the paper’s publication (Figure 3).

Objective 2: Context of integrated/informed ‘F-words’ citations (n= 36)

The majority of citations (n= 34/36, 94.4%) applied the ‘F-words’ to the ICF Framework. Themes were identified on the primary context of ‘F-words’ citations (Figure 4) and target audiences and populations contributed to understanding how the ‘F-words’ are being used (Figure 5).

- Association to physical activity and rehabilitation (n= 13)
- Support of a holistic approach to childhood disability (n= 11)
- ‘F-words’ research team-related papers (n= 6)
- Application and measurement of quality of life (QoL) (n= 3)
- Other (n= 3)

Discussion
- Researchers are using the ‘F-words’ to operationalize the ICF.
- Connecting the ‘F-words’ to rehabilitation interventions was described as a facilitator to children’s participation and motivation.
- The ‘F-words’ are being recommended by researchers worldwide as a framework for supporting a holistic approach to disability.

Future Directions
- Identifying the degree and type of uptake informs future directions to move the ‘F-words’ further into research and practice, such as:
  1. Integration into QoL measurement; and
  2. Promote uptake not only by PTs and children with CP, but by other healthcare provider groups and childhood disabilities.

Next Steps
- We are currently conducting a study to explore international service providers’ use of the ‘F-words’ with the purpose of identifying attitudes on and barriers to implementing the ‘F-words’ into practice.

References