



# Structure and Outcomes of a Pilot Online Prewriting Group

Vrushali Kulkarni, Sonam Kamdar

All authors have declared no conflict of interest

## Introduction

- Caregivers had to take on the role of supporting children's participation in online schooling with the onset of COVID 19. Thus grew the need to support caregivers for this.
- Writing skills encompass the entire continuum from prewriting to paragraph. This was a major factor coming in the way participation in online schooling. This led to development of online group for caregivers to support prewriting skills.

## Objective

This study describes the structure and outcomes of the pilot online pre-writing group conducted in September 2020 with caregivers of children with developmental disabilities.

## Methodology

**Participants:** Caregivers of four children with developmental disabilities

**Intervention Characteristics:** (ref diagram 1)

4 once a week one-hour online group sessions

**Data Collection and Analysis:** Semi-structured interview followed by thematic analysis

Online versus Offline

Themes

Shared learning

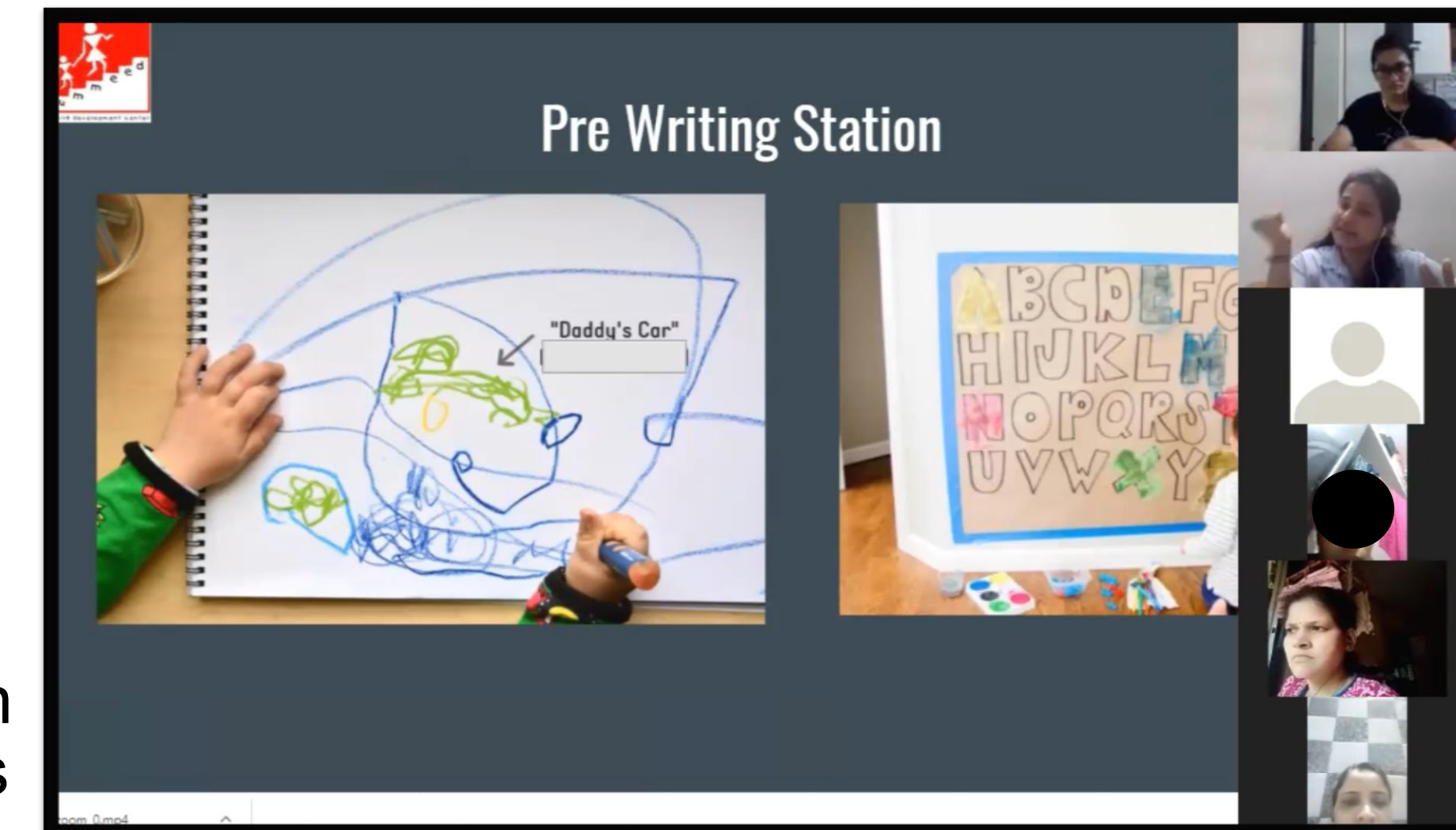
Way ahead

## Results

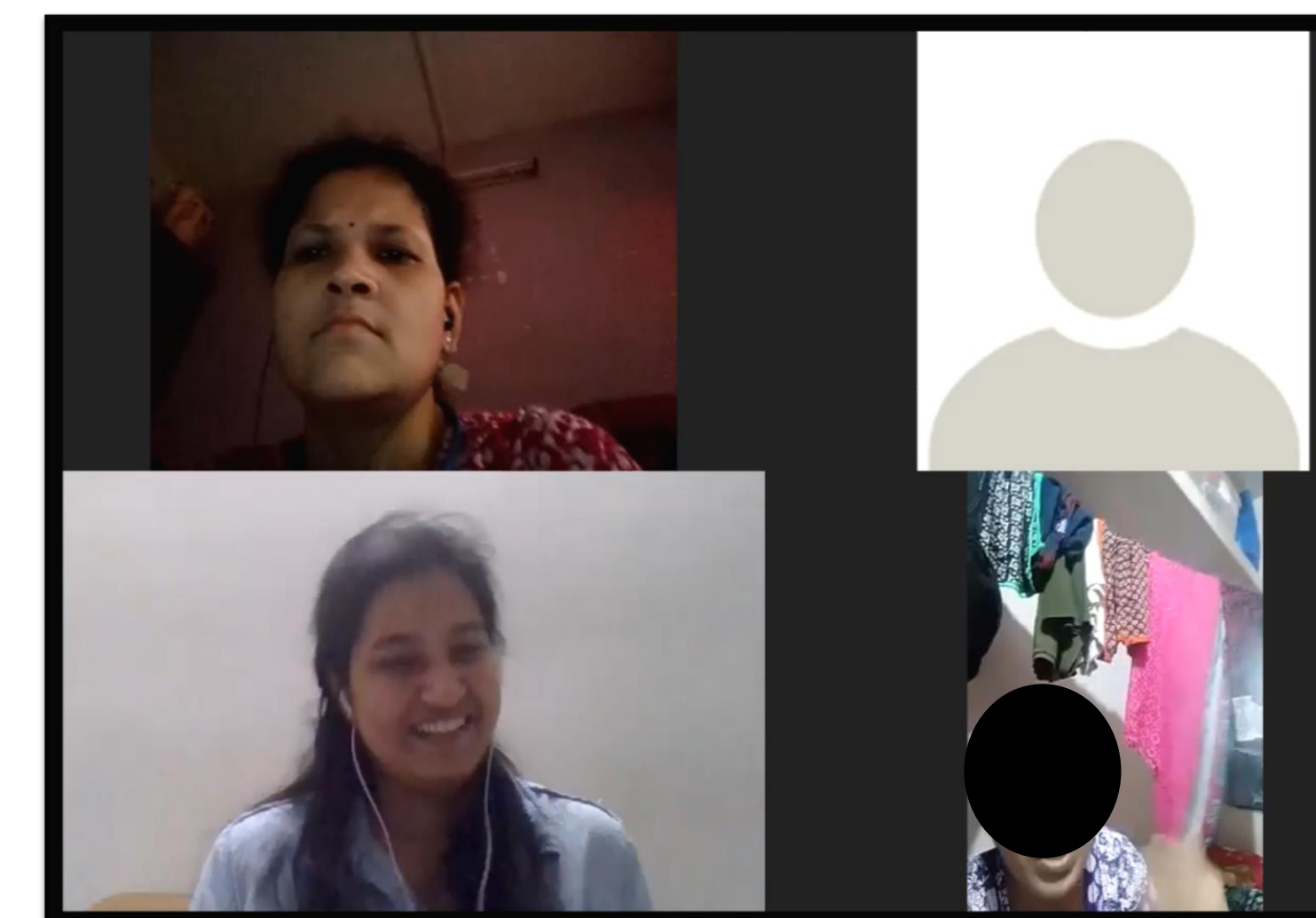
- "My child does not sit in front of screen... with child is not possible...good these sessions were with parents only..."
- "My child does not sit with me...if you do session, its different..."

- "One parent told about using rice...used it with my child... responded well.."
- "We used to do breakout rooms...discuss ideas for our children... And the therapist would share more ideas.."

- "More sessions would be helpful."
- More duration for each session....more time in breakout room"
- "A face to face session after the brainstorming session would be helpful."



Snapshot from a session



Sneak peek in a breakout room

## Conclusion

This group provides a structured approach to build on the child's prewriting skills while leveraging the environmental factors during COVID times.

## Acknowledgements

This group was conceptualized and run by Occupational Therapists from the Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy Team at Ummeed Child Development Center - Namita Namboodiri, Nicky Sayla and Priti Inje. Thank you to all the caregivers participating in the group as well as the extended team of Ummeed Child Development Center.

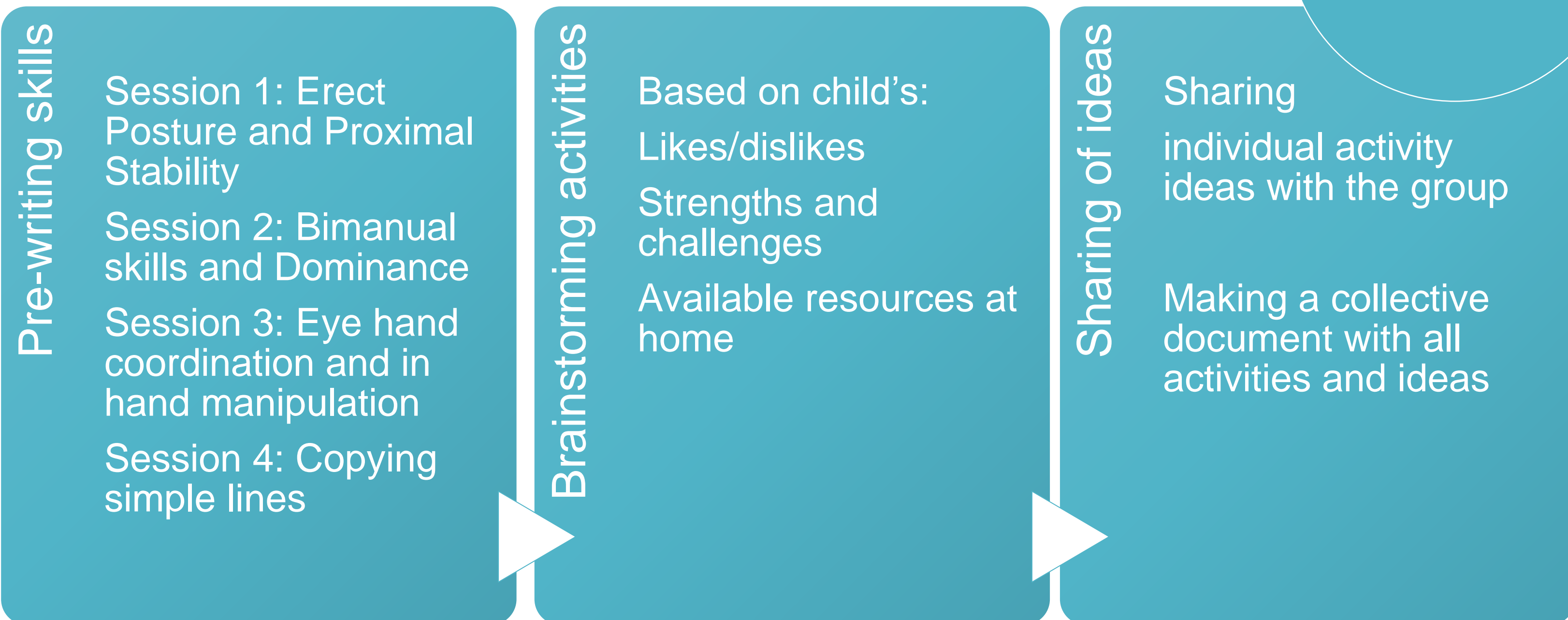


Diagram 1: Intervention Characteristics