**Statistical analysis**

All statistical analysis was conducted using IBM Statistical Package for the Social Science version 26.0 (SPSS Institute) software. The normality of continuous data (i.e., age, IBM, intervention length, SAS, and FLACC scores) was first checked using the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test, and then compared within the two groups using the Mann-Whitney U test. The demographic characteristics of the two groups were also compared using chi-square tests (i.e., categorical data such as gender and caregivers). Using the mean change scores, repeated measures MANOVA, adjusted for significant baseline difference, were conducted to test the overall between-group differences in the outcome measures. After the multivariate analysis, univariate analysis was performed where appropriate. Identifying changes within each group were performed by paired t-tests. In addition, a one-way analysis of covariance was used to compare between-group differences in changes before and after the intervention. The significant level was set at 0.05. the clinically meaningful change was assessed by calculating *Cohen's d* for effect size, with 0.20, 0.50, and 0.80 used to represent small, moderate, and large effects, respectively.