Standardization of a new battery for the assessment of language development in preschool and first grade children

This research study investigates the psychometric properties of a new language assessment battery used in a large (N>600) and representative sample of Greek students 4-7 years of age. All participants enrolled in public schools from four geographical regions (Attica, Thessaly, Macedonia and Crete) that varied demographically (urban, semi-urban and rural). For the individualized language assessments we utilized mobile devices (tablet PC) to ensure children's interest and joyful participation as well as reliable administration procedures across sites. In this poster, we will present reliability and internal consistency data of the various subtests compiling the battery (receptive vocabulary, listening comprehension, phonological processing, word definition, naming, narrative skill, story retelling, morphological skill, pragmatic language, etc.). Associations among the different language measures will also be examined and their relations with cognitive (i.e. verbal memory, naming speed) and literacy skills (i.e., letter knowledge, invented spelling, orthographic recognition). Most language skills were assessed easily and efficiently providing us with valuable and detailed information regarding areas of atypical development for intervention purposes. Validation of the proposed battery confirmed its use as a cost-effective language assessment tool with high predictive validity.

Language Tasks

- Receptive/Expressive vocabulary (α=.88/.93)
- Naming (α=.72)
- Listening comprehension (α =.78)
- Phonological awareness (syllable/phoneme)
- Morphological awareness (verb/noun)
- Narrative skills (α =.828)
- Pragmatic skills (α=.81)

Emergent Literacy Tasks

- Letter sounds
- Name writing
- Invented spelling

