

**Title**

Language analysis in 6-7 years old children with delayed language development

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Background

Several language measures and their derivations were developed for language assessment, although there is not an agreement about their power in prediction of language development and discrimination between typical and atypical children.

Aims

Our aim is to determine whether the Slovenian DLD and TD group differ in measures of language.

Methods & Procedures

We compared story retelling of Slovenian 10 typical developing and 10 children with DLD, aged 6-7 years, using measures of language productivity, syntactic and hierarchical complexity: number of clauses, utterances, words, mean length of clause and utterance in words, clausal density, average of total number of main clauses and subordinates, proportion of main clauses and subordinate clauses on all clauses.

Results

DLD group shows lower means in quantity of clauses, utterances and words, minor clausal density, although they produce more utterances, but not clauses. The hierarchical complexity is low. The two groups show statistically significant differences in variance in MLUw and clausal density, and in means of MLCw, MLUw and CD, i.e. in a measure of language productivity and syntactic complexity.

Conclusions & Implications

Language production in DLD group differs from language production of TD group. Quantitative measures are along qualitative measures useful in assessment and therapy planning.