

Criterion validity of the Finnish version of LittleEARS Early Speech Production Questionnaire (LEESPQ)

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Background

Impaired hearing often hampers early spoken language development. LEESPQ (Wachtlin et al., 2017) measures the development of children aged 0–18 months. Of validated parental surveys used in Finland, LittleEars Auditory Questionnaire (LEAQ; Rauhamäki et al., 2014) measures skills of children aged 0–24 months, ESIKKO (Laakso et al., 2011; based on CSBS) 6–24 months and Sanaseula Vauveli (Stolt & Vehkavuori, 2018; based on MCDI) 9–18 months.

Aim

The aim was to find out the criterion validity of the 27-item LEESPQ currently under validation in Finland.

Method

Social media was used to contact parents of six, 12 and 18-month-old full-term, hearing, typically developing children acquiring Finnish. Interested parents received a link to an on-line background form and the LEESPQ and, by post, items on paper adopted from the ESIKKO, LEAQ and the whole 89-item Sanaseula Vauveli which measure the same developmental milestones as the LEESPQ.

Result

Altogether 83 complete replies (concerning 45 girls and 38 boys) were received, 25–31 per age group. Spearman's correlation coefficient (next, usually $p < 0.001$) between the total score of LEESPQ and Sanaseula Vauveli ($n = 52$) was 0.846 with similar results among girls ($n = 29$; 0.819) and boys ($n = 23$; 0.871). However, correlation was stronger among 18-month-olds ($n = 27$; 0.754) than among 12-month-olds ($n = 25$; 0.407, $p = 0.044$).

Discussion

The Finnish version of the LEESPQ was considered measuring children's early phases of speech and language in line with other measures.