

Gestural and lexical development in 5p- syndrome (Cri du Chat Syndrome)

MacArthur-Bates Communicative development Inventories (MCDI) are widely used to assess lexical and grammatical development in infants and toddlers across a range of languages, and there have also been a few studies using this instrument to investigate skills in these areas in children from atypical populations. The inventories have also been used in investigations of language skills in children with various language disorders (e.g. Berglund et al. 2001; Caselli et al. 1998; Miranda et al. 2007; Thal et al. 2004).

In the present study the Norwegian adaptation of the MCDI (Words and gestures form) has been used in a longitudinal investigation of lexical and gestural development in a boy (aged 2;5 – 6;9) with 5p- syndrome (aka Cri du Chat Syndrome), a genetic disorder resulting from a deletion on the short arm of chromosome 5. Clinical features associated with the syndrome include mental retardation as well as motor problems. Furthermore, affected individuals experience language problems to varying degrees, see Kristoffersen (2008) for a review. However, it has been pointed out that comprehension is far better than production. Since the MCDI measures both areas, we should expect this difference to show up also when using this instrument to assess subjects with this syndrome.

Based on ten completed CDI forms growth curves for communicative gestures, receptive vocabulary and productive vocabulary will be presented. Results indicate that the subject is following a delayed, but not deviant, developmental trajectory in these areas, compared to typically developing infants and toddlers (as presented in Simonsen & al. 2014).

References

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