

Test for assessment of language development in Russian «KORABLIK»

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"While a variety of standardized tests for assessment of language development exist for English children (e.g., Clinical Evaluation of Language Fundamentals Preschool-2 (Wiig, Secord, & Semel, 2004)), there is a lack of such tests for Russian-speaking children. It makes impossible to define quantitative norms for language development in Russian and to specify the type and severity of linguistic deficit in children in clinical practice and research studies. In response to the medical and experimental needs, a novel standardized language development test – the «KORABLIK» – has been developed. This test covers all the level of linguistic processing in auditory comprehension and oral production language domains and takes into account all relevant psycholinguistic variables. Importantly, to standardize the presentation and scoring, «KORABLIK» is implemented on a tablet, i.e. for each subtest, the stimuli are presented automatically and the responses are recorded and scored (for comprehension tasks only) also automatically.

Overall, the test includes 11 subtests that assess children's phonological, lexical, morphosyntactic, and discourse skills in comprehension and production. The comprehension subtests include:

(1) discrimination of minimal pairs of pseudowords (N = 24; stimuli are matched on the place of contrasting sound, syllable structure, type of a vowel, and type of a consonant);

(2-3) word to picture matching for objects and for actions (N = 24 in each subtest; each visual set includes four pictures — target, phonological distractor, semantic distractor and unrelated object; stimuli are matched on subjective visual complexity, familiarity, age of acquisition, imageability, frequency, and length — all parameters from <http://en.stimdb.ru/>);

(4) sentence to picture matching for syntactic constructions of varying complexity (N = 24; stimuli are matched on word order, argument structure of a verb; active, relative, or prepositional construction type);

(5) comprehension of an orally presented story indexed by response accuracy to a set of 16 yes-no questions on explicit and implicit content of the stories.

The production subtests include:

(6) repetition of pseudowords (N = 24; stimuli are matched on length and number of articulatory switches);

(7) repetition of sentences (N = 24; stimuli are matched on frequency and number of words);

(8-9) naming of objects and actions (N = 24 in each subtest; stimuli are matched on subjective visual complexity, familiarity, age of acquisition, imageability, frequency, and length — all parameters from <http://en.stimdb.ru/>);

(10) sentence construction using syntactic priming paradigm (N = 24; verbs in prime and target are different; stimuli are matched on word order, argument structure of a verb; active, relative, or prepositional construction type);

(11) picture description.

The standardization of «KORABLIK» will be based on normative evidence from at least 150 typically developing children aged 3-7 years. Data collection is in progress. After collecting the normative data, we plan to use this test in various atypical populations, including children with autism spectrum disorder and epilepsy.