

ABSTRACT

Title: Comparison of school readiness levels of children from selected regular and speech and speech therapy kindergartens using the iSopfi diagnostic tool

Objectives: The main aim of this study is to compare the areas of school readiness accessed by the iSopfi test battery in children from selected kindergartens, namely two regular kindergartens and two speech therapy kindergartens in Prague.

Methods: A total of 40 children aged 5-7 years (20 from a regular kindergarten, 20 from a speech therapy kindergarten) underwent an assessment of school readiness using the iSopfi tool. The iSopfi tool, developed by the STEP Educational Psychological Consultancy in 2019, includes 13 areas, some of which are tested on the spot by the examiner (e.g., graphomotor skills, pre-mathematical ideas, time orientation, etc.) and others by the teacher based on long-term evaluation (e.g., self-care, gross motor skills, social understanding, etc.). Data processing is done using the My iSopfi digital extension and has a graphical form (linear graphs for individual skills and pie chart for overall evaluation). A purpose-designed anamnestic questionnaire for the probands' parents and an evaluation survey for the teachers were used to obtain complements.

Results: On average, children attending regular kindergarten achieved a fair or very good level of skills in all (13) tested areas. The group of children from the speech therapy kindergarten has a reduced level of skills in 8 tested areas and in each area at least 1 point lower than the group from the regular kindergarten. The areas of graphomotor skills, auditory perception, verbal reasoning even by 3 points lower. The most problematic area tested was the area of time orientation. Low skill levels in the area of verbal reasoning were present only in speech therapy kindergartens (6 children). Teachers were highly interested in the pedagogical diagnostics provided by iSopfi due to its diversity, clarity, systematicity, and fast results processing. They stated that they consider the insights about children obtained by iSopfi diagnostics useful plan to use them further.

Keywords: preschool age, pedagogical diagnostics, kindergarten, psychometrics, school readiness, diagnostic tool