

## **KINDERGARTEN MANDARIN LANGUAGE SCREENING TEST**

**Leong Yean Ching**

This preliminary study aimed to design a kindergarten language screening test for children who speak Mandarin in Malaysia. This study aimed to determine the validity, reliability and the suitability of the test items on the children. The Mandarin Kindergarten Language Screening Test is based on the framework of the Kindergarten Language Screening Test-2 devised by Gauthier and Madison (1998). It has been modified according to the local culture. It was tested on 36 children aged between 4.0 to 6.11. A retest was carried out on the same children within two weeks interval. Calculation was based on the score gained on each item. Test reliability was measured by using coefficient alpha correlation. The result showed that the content reliability, test-retest reliability and inter-scorer reliability were high. The test was suitable for children with different gender. Based on the children's performance on each test item, all questions, instructions, test equipment and pictures stimulus were suitable to be used in the test except for the sentence in Item 15c and three picture stimulus in Item 16 and 17. The language and cognitive development in the Mandarin-speaking children were similar to children from other countries. The implication of the findings towards speech and language therapy was also discussed.

Leong, Y.C. 2003. Kindergarten Mandarin Language Screening Test. Bachelor of Speech Science Thesis. Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.