

Impact of Covid-19 on Children's Language, Educational and Socio- emotional Skills

September 2023 - Newsletter

Hope you all had a restful summer break! We are now starting the third and final year of the ICICLES project. In this newsletter we will share with you a few updates and the next steps of the project. Thank you all for your continued support!

What has happened since the last newsletter?

- At the end of the last academic year we asked participating schools to complete a language assessment and a socioemotional questionnaire with all participating children.
- We received a total of 548 socioemotional questionnaires and 621 language assessments.
- We have looked into all questionnaires and assessments and you can find our preliminary findings on the next page.



Language assessment

- From May to July 2023 schools completed 621 Language Screens with all participating children.
- The Language Screen is a standardised measure that focuses on four specific areas: expressive and receptive vocabulary, listening comprehension and sentence repetition.
- Our preliminary findings show that the language skills of most children are in the expected range. While this language measure suggests that most children are performing in the expected range, it only assesses four areas: receptive and expressive vocabulary, listening comprehension and sentence repetitions. Therefore, it may not pick up on difficulties children may have with their broader communication skills. These results are similar to the ones from the first two testing points.
- Below you can see the distribution of scores divided by year group.



Year 1



■ Language skills are not a cause for concern (95.05%)
■ May benefit from support in developing their language skills (3.72%)
■ Definitely needs support in developing their language skills. (1.24%)

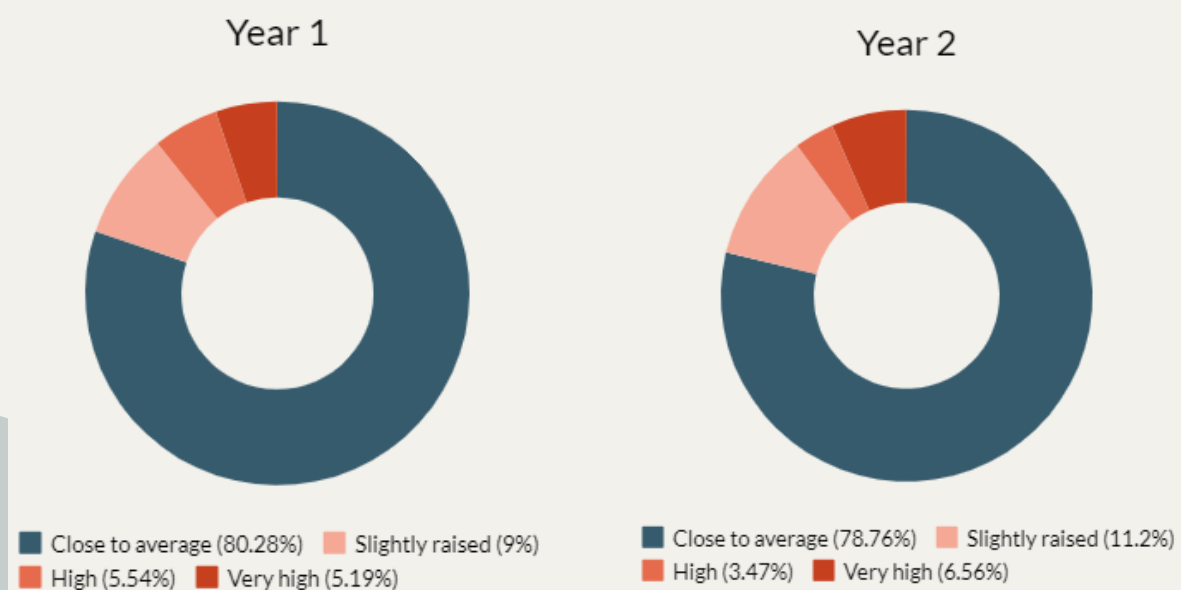
Year 2



■ Language skills are not a cause for concern (95.64%)
■ May benefit from support in developing their language skills (3.02%)
■ Definitely needs support in developing their language skills. (1.34%)

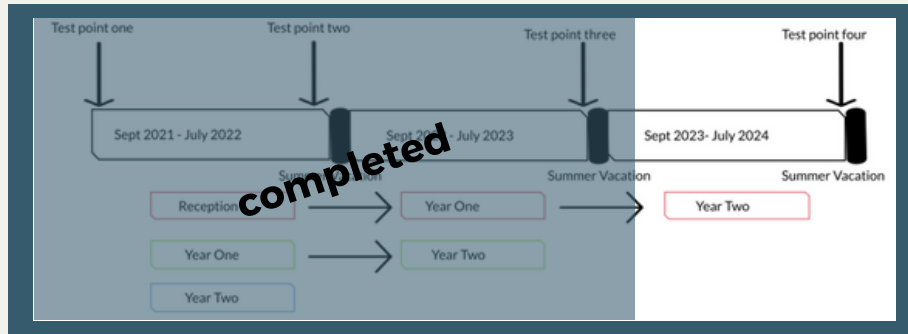
Socioemotional questionnaire

- From May to July 2023 schools completed 548 Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaires with all participating children.
- The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire is a brief behavioural screening questionnaire used to assess socio-emotional well-being.
- Scores are categorised as *close to average*, *slightly raised*, *high* and *very high*. Scores that are *close to average* indicate that a child is scoring in the typical range. Scores that are *slightly raised*, *high* or *very high* suggest a child may have some socio-emotional difficulties.
- Our preliminary findings show that the majority of children in both year groups are scoring in the close to average range. However, in both year groups some children falling into the slightly raised, high and very high categories. These findings are similar to the ones from the first two testing points.
- Below you can see the distribution of scores divided by year group.



Next steps

So far we have completed three out of four testing points. You can see below a timeline of the project.



What is going to happen this academic year?

- We will organize an online event to share our most recent findings and will share more information about it in due course.
- In Spring 2024 we will ask all participating schools to complete an online school questionnaire.
- In Spring 2024 we will invite staff members from all participating schools for an optional interview.
- In Summer 2024 we will ask all participating schools to repeat the language and socioemotional. This year we will only work with children in Year 2.
- We will contact all schools closer to the start of the third testing point with more information regarding the next steps.



Thank you for your support with the project!

If you have any questions or would like more information about the project, please contact us by email or Twitter using the information below.

This project has been funded by

