

Construction of the Dyslexia Early Detection Test for Kindergarten Students

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Abstract. Although the diagnosis of dyslexia can only be confirmed at seven years-old minimum, the symptoms may occur as early as kindergarten age. This study was aimed to develop Dyslexia Early Detection Test for kindergarten students. The test was conceptualized based on the theory of the cause of dyslexia: the phonological processing deficit, visual processing deficit, and motor coordination deficit theory. Participant of this study were 237 kindergarten students aged 5-7 years. Factorial validation through confirmatory factor analysis revealed that the model provided a comparable fit to the data. Evidence of construct validity was also obtained through by-known-group validation method which indicated that there were significant differences between normal and dyslexic children in all three dimensions measured. Thus, it can be concluded that the Dyslexia Early Detection Test can be used to screen 5-7 years old children at risk for dyslexia.

Keywords: dyslexia; early detection, specific learning disability; test construction