

## **Assessment of Mandarin Receptive Vocabulary in Hong Kong Children**

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Most Hong Kong children are exposed to Mandarin once they enter kindergarten: according to our recent survey, over 80% of Hong Kong kindergartens provide regular exposure to Mandarin, albeit with varying amounts of input. However, this trend is not yet matched by research-based understanding of the children's developmental profiles in Mandarin, and thus far there are no standardized tools to assess the Mandarin proficiency of Hong Kong preschool children.

As an initial attempt to document Hong Kong preschool children's Mandarin competence, we developed an evaluation tool to assess children's receptive vocabulary. Based on the early childhood vocabulary inventory of Mandarin-speaking children in Beijing (Hao et al., 2008), the test assesses Hong Kong children's understanding of 98 words from 14 semantic categories. The pilot results based on 200 Hong Kong children aged from three to six will be presented. We will also discuss the significance of these findings as well as how the receptive vocabulary scores may provide a revealing indicator of the development of Mandarin in the Hong Kong context.

### **Reference**

Hao, M.L., H., Shu, A.L. Xing and P. Li. 2008. Early vocabulary inventory for Mandarin Chinese. *Behavior Research Methods* 40.3: 728-733.