

# Development of a New Test Battery to Diagnose Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) for 4- to 6-year-old children

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## Project Aim

Development of a standardised **oral Luxembourgish** test battery for children aged four to six, which will attempt to:

- **Improve** the diagnostic process of DLD
- **Decrease** the over- and under-identification of DLD of multilingual children
- **Establish a test framework** suiting the Luxembourgish language and its grammatical features
- **Assess** oral Luxembourgish competencies **fairer**
- **Align** test materials with the Luxembourgish educational curriculum

## Methods



### Preparation of Pretest

- Items & Material finalised through:
- Theory & Literature Review
  - Existing Tests & Test Design
  - Exchange with Practitioners

### Evaluation of newly developed test materials, which are based on:

- Luxembourgish Grammar
- Second Language Acquisition
- Existing Tests

### Finalization of test battery:

- Standardisation
- Validation
- Development of reference groups

## Foreseen Data Collection

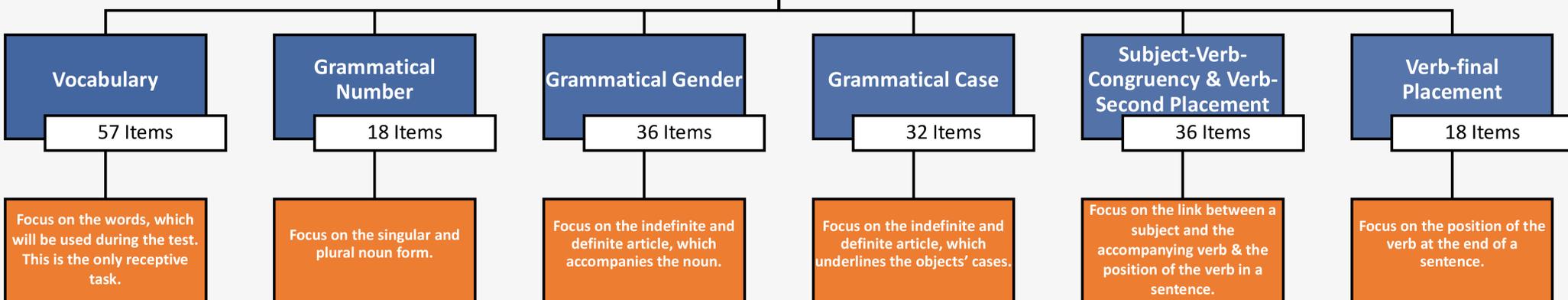
- 1. Data collection for Pretest (January 2026)**
  - 15 school regions
  - 2 classes per region
  - Recruitment of approximately 400 children
    - 200 children per cycle
- 2. Data collection for Main Test (January 2027)**
  - 15 school regions
  - Recruitment of approximately 1300 children
    - 650 children per cycle



## Test Situation

- 3 sessions** in an **individual** setting
- 20 minutes per session
  - Vocabulary + Numerus
  - Genus + Kasus
  - SVK / V2 + VE

## Test Battery Framework



## Implications

The development of this test battery in **oral Luxembourgish** will help to:

- **Establish the first norms** for children
  - in cycle 1.1 (4- to 5-year-old)
  - in cycle 1.2 (5- to 6-year-old)→ according to their diverse language backgrounds
- **Gather valuable data** about Luxembourgish language acquisition in children in a multilingual context
  - **crucial competency** required for subsequent learning as Luxembourgish is:
    - the main **language of instruction** in Cycle 1
    - one of the instruction languages in **primary education**
    - the main language of **communication throughout formal education**
  - **early detection** of difficulties is important to provide adequate support
- **Support an evidence-based practice** in clinical and research settings
- **Assist practitioners** in their diagnostic procedures

## Further information

The **extensive content and frame** of the test battery can be found next to this poster

**A Diagnostic Tool for Developmental Language Disorder in Four to Six-Year-Old Children in the Luxembourgish Multilingual Context**

See Poster by **Werdel et al.** for information on the theoretical background



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Centre de Logopédie



LE GOUVERNEMENT  
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG  
Ministère de l'Éducation nationale,  
de l'Enfance et de la Jeunesse

Reference:  
Ministère de l'Éducation nationale, de l'Enfance et de la Jeunesse. (n.d.). *Contact – Direction de l'enseignement fondamental*.  
<https://portal.education.lu/fondamental/Contact>  
Werdel, A. et al. (2025, October). A Diagnostic Tool for Developmental Language Disorder in Four to Six-Year-Old Children in the Luxembourgish Multilingual Context [Poster presentation]. LuxERA Conference, Belval, Luxembourg.