



MINISTRY OF CHILDREN
AND EDUCATION
NATIONAL AGENCY FOR
EDUCATION AND QUALITY



Read more about the Language Assessment for 2-year-olds and watch a film about the process by following this QR code or visiting www.emu.dk/dagtilbud

Information for parents about

Language Assessment for 2-year-olds

– A starting point for working together on your child's language development.

This leaflet was made by TrygFonden's Centre for Child Research on behalf of the National Agency for Education and Quality

What is a language assessment?

- A language assessment is a tool used to track a child's development of their language and communication skills.
- A language assessment helps focus educational efforts and collaboration with parents in relation to improving the child's language skills.
- The results from a language assessment only constitute one aspect of a more general assessment, which also takes into account information about the child's language skills in everyday life and in the home.
- The results from a language assessment show how the child is doing linguistically compared to other children of the same age and gender.

Which children undergo a language assessment?

- Every child must undergo a language assessment at the age of three if the day-care facility determines that the child requires language stimulation.
- However, the municipality may decide to carry out a language assessment when the child is only two years old instead.
- The municipality is obligated to carry out language assessments for all two- or three-year-old children who are not in day-care.
- Some municipalities choose to carry out language assessments for all children at the age of two or three.

How are parents involved in the process?

The collaboration between parents and the day-care facility on the child's language development is important. Municipalities have different practices for involving parents.

- You will be notified if your child is to undergo a language assessment.
- You can be notified of the results.
- You can be involved in how the day-care intends to follow up on the results.
- You will receive guidance on what you can do as parents if your child requires language stimulation.

The Language Assessment for 2-year-olds consists of four parts, each of which assesses a different area of language skills:

Receptive vocabulary: The words the child is able to understand.

Productive vocabulary: The words the child is able to say.

Use of language: The child's ability to talk about things and people that are not present in that very moment.

Communication skills: The child's communication skills in general, e.g. through words, eye contact and body language.

How is the language assessment carried out?

- The child is only actively involved in the part of the Language Assessment for 2-year-olds that assesses receptive vocabulary.
- The child and day-care worker read a picture book together. As they flip through the pages, the day-care worker instructs the child to point at the appropriate pictures for the words he/she says.
- The child always receives praise for their efforts and will not be told whether the pictures they point at are right or wrong, as the aim is to ensure they do not perceive the language assessment as a test.
- For the other three components of the assessment, a day-care worker who knows the child well must answer some questions about the child's use of language at day-care.