

## INTRODUCTION

> 235 million **French speaking** (OIF, 2018)



- Yet very little data is available on typical French phonological development
- No data is available for Belgian French

## RESEARCH'S OBJECTIVES

- To compensate for the lack of information on French phonological production in typically developing children
- To compare it to the normative data currently available

## METHOD

### POPULATION

- 44 French speaking children
- 35 - 39 months
- No cause of concern for speech devpt
- No speech intervention
- No bilingualism
- No cognitive/neurological disorder
- No >40dB hearing loss

### TASK



Picture naming task  
43 words – Eulalie (Meloni et al., n.d.)

## RESULTS

Percentage of consonants correct (PCC) : **63,85%** (min 34,75% ; max 84,85%)

## DISCUSSION

**PCC is very inferior compared to current data for French children between 36-41 months : 63,85% vs 87,8%** (MacLeod et al., 2011). This could be explained by :

- The inclusion of 5 children of inferior age (35 months), but when we removed them, PCC is only increased by 1,41%
- Biais due to clinical sensibility to lisp as the main experimentator is an Orofacial Myofunctional Therapist but when we were less severe for transcriptions, PCC only increased by less than 1%
- Specificities of Belgian speech like devoiced fricatives in final position but assumed to have relatively minimal impact
- The differences between **target words used in picture naming tasks** is likely to be the most plausible explanation. Differences express in terms of **complexity of words (clusters) and number of syllables**. There are more words listed in the MB-CDIs (global database of young children's word production, <https://mb-cdi.stanford.edu/>) for ESPP, suggesting that items are more often produced by children of this age and therefore more **frequent**.

	Evaluation Sommaire de la Phonologie ESPP	EULALIE adapted for young children (Meloni et al., n.d.)
Number of Words	40	43
Number of Clusters	7	16
4 syllables	0	6
3 syllables	3	11
2 syllables	20	13
1 syllable	17	13
% of word listed in MB-CDIs (word usage by children)	51%	60%

## CONCLUSION

- PCC is originally meant to measure conversational speech (Shriberg et al., 1997) and seems to be influenced by speech material
- EULALIE seems to be more representative of real complexity of speech as young children produce more structure errors (Rvachew et al., 2013) whereas ESSP appears to suffer from ceiling effect
- It seems necessary to update the current French-speaking normative data, taking into account the speech material and the metric analysis employed : this data can be a starting point

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