UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Assessment of Linguistic Skills and Language Disorders

2526-2-F5103P113

Learning area

Methodological competences and clinical techniques

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

- Diagnostic process to assess language and communication disorders in developmental age
- Tests and instruments to assess typical and atypical language development

Applying knowledge and understanding

- Assessment of linguistic competences during development
- Report related to the language abilities of a child

Making judgements

- Acquiring the ability to make autonomous and critical judgements when assessing situations involving individuals, groups and intervention plans, while also taking into account the professional ethics principles formulated by the Order of Psychologists
- Acquisition of the ability to independently select appropriate assessment tools and intervention procedures in collaboration with other professionals working in different developmental contexts

Communication skills

- Acquiring communication skills that enable one to interact effectively with the people, groups and institutions involved, directly or indirectly, in one's professional activities, in order to facilitate teamwork,

intervene effectively within the service network, and clearly communicate one's specific psychological contribution
- Strengthening communication skills to enable effective interaction with parents, teachers, children and adolescents during counselling and psychological support activities, while taking into account individual differences and contexts

Learning skills

- Promoting the ability to update one's knowledge by learning autonomously and critically about the latest national and international scientific research in relevant disciplines, with regard to content, design and interventions. This also includes the ability to learn from the experience of practitioners, teachers and specialists in the sector or other disciplines

Contents

• Presentation of methods and instruments to assess the different areas of language development in childhood.

• Description of the developmental profiles of children with Developmental Language Disorder or with secondary communication disorders (e.g., Down syndrome, rare genetic diseases).

Detailed program

The aim of the course is to introduce students to methods and tools useful for the assessment of comprehension and production skills in the various language domains (phonology, vocabulary, morphosyntax, narrative skills). Direct (standardised tests and observation) and indirect (questionnaires and interviews) assessment methods are considered. The development profile of children with Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) and children with other conditions in which language difficulties occur as a secondary disorder (e.g. children with Down syndrome, children with rare genetic syndromes) is also examined.

Prerequisites

A good knowledge of the basis of Developmental Psychology will be useful during the lessons.

Teaching methods

The teaching typology is laboratory-based.

A short part of the course is conducted in a didactic delivery mode (approx. 4 hours), while the majority of the course is interactive in nature (approx. 24 hours). In order to acquire proficiency in test administration, videos are shown, exercises with compiled protocols are carried out and role-playing exercises are performed. Clinical cases are also illustrated accompanied by the viewing of videos and the examination of protocols and clinical reports.

The entire course is delivered in presence and in Italian.

The material (slides and materials for individual work) will be made available on the course e-learning page.

Assessment methods

Attendance of at least 70% of the total hours of lessons is required.

Students will be asked to administer some tests for the assessment of language development to a child. They will then be asked to write a report. The evaluation criteria of the individual work are: correctness in the administration of the proposed tests, ability to analyze the results, and ability to write a "clinical" report.

The results of the individual work will be discussed during the last lesson.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Slides of the lessons.

Sustainable Development Goals

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | REDUCED INEQUALITIES