Methods of Measuring Health Literacy of Children (MoMChild)

The aims of this HLCA subproject are the development and validation of an instrument for assessing the health literacy of 9 to 10-year-old children.

During a systematic literature review, conducted as a part of the project’s work plan to create an overview on existing methodologies for children, and to gather valuable information for our own research, N=20 original instruments for children and adolescents have been found. Among these, only n=5 instruments could be identified that were used to capture and assess the health literacy of the MoMChild age group.

In the course of the review it was examined which aspects were defined and operationalised as essential elements of the health literacy of children and adolescents. As illustrated below, the analysed studies addressed a range of different aspects, primarily focusing on skills:

The aspects which were operationalised most commonly for assessing the health literacy of children and adolescents are information seeking, knowledge, critical skills, understanding, communication and reading. Furthermore, numeracy, attitude and the application of knowledge (each being measured three times) as well as self-efficacy, health behaviour and processing skills (each being measured two times) could be identified as further components of health literacy, as assessed in the analysed studies. The analysis of the instruments is an ongoing process. The results will be published in a peer-reviewed journal in 2016.

Further details and information online: www.uni-bielefeld.de/zpi/

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