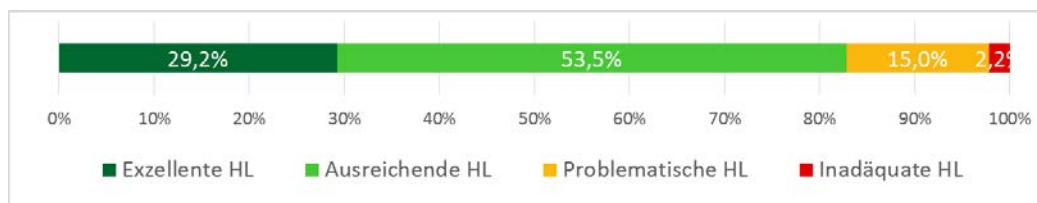
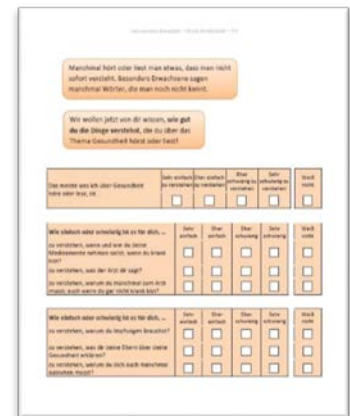




Health literacy of children aged 9 to 10 – first empirical findings –

The research project MoMChild (Methods of Measuring Health Literacy of Children) aims to develop and test a questionnaire capable of assessing health literacy of children aged 9 to 10. For this purpose, an existing questionnaire (the European Health Literacy Survey Questionnaire, HLS-EU-Q) is adapted specifically for this age group. Between November 2016 and May 2017, 907 fourth grade students were surveyed on their health literacy and other health-related aspects in 31 schools in rural and urban areas of North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany. Specifically, children were asked about how easy or difficult it is for them to access, understand, appraise, and apply health-related information in different contexts. Simply put, we assume ‘limited health literacy’ for those students that consistently rate these tasks as difficult.



The analysis of health literacy mean scores shows that the majority of children have an excellent (29.2%) or sufficient level (53.5%) of health literacy. Accordingly, we can assume that 5 out of 6 children in our sample do not have difficulty dealing with health information. However, we can also see that one out of six children faces difficulty accessing, understanding, appraising, and applying health information.

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