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# The Italian Words and Sentences MB-CDI: normative data and concordance between complete and short forms

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## Abstract

One of the most popular and widely used parent report instruments for assessing early language acquisition is the MacArthur-Bates Communicative Development Inventories (MB-CDI). This study compares normative data of the Italian Words and Sentences complete form (WS-CF) and short form (WS-SF). The samples included 752 children for the WS-CF and 816 children for the WS-SF designed for children aged 18–36 months. The concordance between WS-SF and WS-CF is analyzed in a subgroup of 65 children. The results revealed strong correlations between WS-CF and WS-SF in both lexical and grammar skills as well as strong relationship between lexical and grammar skills. There was a high percentage agreement (97%) between the two forms for scores below the 10th percentile, suggesting that the two forms may be used interchangeably in order to describe vocabulary and grammatical development.

**Keywords:** Italian MacArthur-Bates CDI; language development; vocabulary size; early grammar development

## Introduction

Over the past 20 years, the use of parent report questionnaires for assessing early language acquisition has been a method widely used for both clinical and research purposes. These questionnaires reflect child performance in a wide range of contexts and situations. Moreover, they allow the collection of data from very large samples at low cost in terms of human resources and time, while providing a representative picture of very young children's language skills.

One of the most popular and widely used set of instruments is the MacArthur-Bates Communicative Development Inventories (MB-CDI), originally developed both in

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