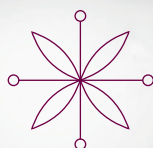


The Abstract Book of the 22nd European Conference on Developmental Psychology



August 25-29, 2025
Vilnius, Lithuania

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HOW TO RECOGNIZE TRAUMATIZATION IN YOUNG CHILDREN: THE NEW ODENSE CHILD TRAUMA SCREENING (OCTS) TOOL IN LITHUANIA

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Background. Due to their developmental capacities, younger children may find it challenging to articulate their emotions and experiences related to traumatic events. Since play is a natural part of their development, play-based assessment tools can effectively explore their inner world and identify signs of traumatization. There is a need for valid methods to evaluate young children's (4 to 8 years) psychological difficulties related to traumatic experiences. The Odense Child Trauma Screening (OCTS), developed by Danish researchers, is a play-based story stem assessment tool developed to screen for indicators of traumatization in young children. Just a few studies of the OCTS have been published so far.

Objective. The current study aimed to test the reliability and convergent validity of the OCTS in the Lithuanian community and risk subsamples of young children aged 4-8 years.

Method. The total sample consisted of 209 participants (58.9% girls) from the community (47.4%) and risk (52.6%) subsamples, $M_{age} = 6.29$ ($SD = 1.48$). All children were screened with the OCTS, and caregivers completed self-report questionnaires: demographics, the Child and Adolescent Trauma Screen-Caregiver (CATS-C), and the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ).

Results. The data suggests that the OCTS has very good inter-rater reliability. The OCTS, SDQ, and CATS-C scores were significantly higher in the risk subsample, with small to large effect sizes. Boys and younger children (3-4-year-olds) scored higher on the OCTS. Out of all the OCTS stories, the Burnt hand story had significant correlation coefficients with all the CATS-C PTSD symptoms.

Conclusions. The OCTS seems promising tool in Lithuania, but there were variations in scores between the Lithuanian data and an earlier study of the Danish sample. Future studies on the OCTS would benefit from further cross-cultural, reliability and the validity examination.