

# Word comprehension and multilingualism among toddlers: A study using touch screens in daycares

Laia Fibla, Charlotte Maniel and Alejandrina Cristia

Lscp Paris



# Do all children learn words in the same way?

- During the firsts years of life there is individual variation regarding lexical acquisition.
  - SES
  - Bilingual / Multilingual children

# Do all children learn words in the same way?

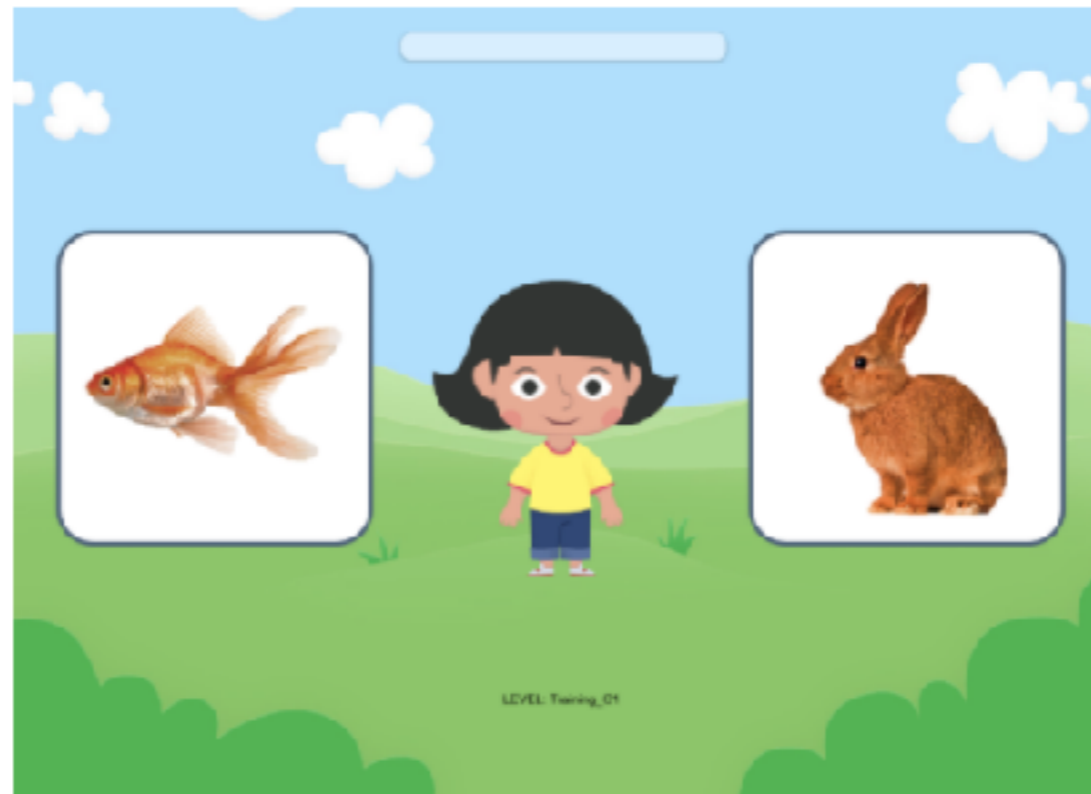
- Bilingual children
  - Bilingual typically score lower than monolingual on vocabulary tests targeting only their **common language**.
  - One recent study using touch-screen test on **both spoken** languages, found that Canadian 2-year-old bilinguals' performance in the common language did not differ.
  - Recent studies show that touch-screen tasks are a **more accurate** index of children's vocabulary.

# Do multilingual and monolingual toddlers recognize words similarly when tested with touch screens?

- We tested monolingual, bilingual, and multilingual French toddlers on their *common language* using a touch-screen task.
- Toddlers were tested in their daycares.

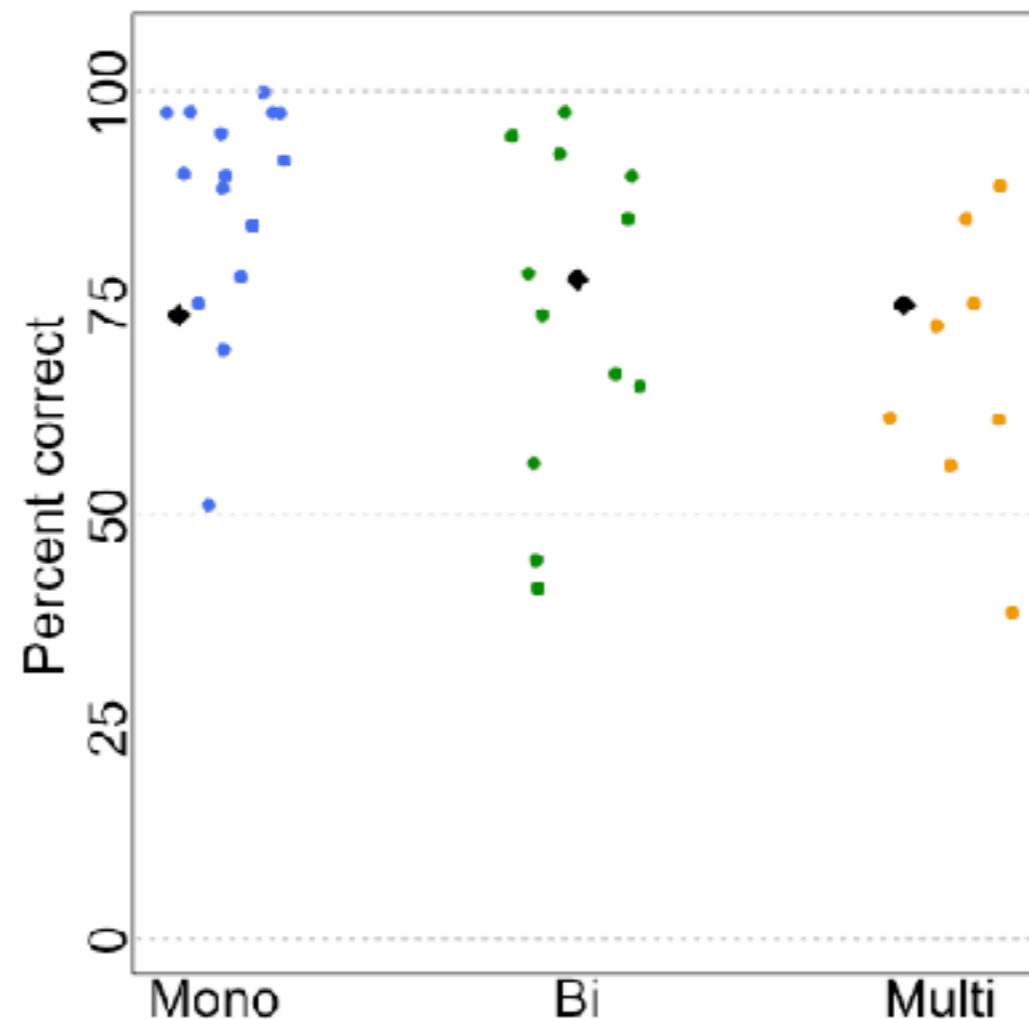
# Method

- 35 children (monolingual  $n = 15$ ; bilingual  $n = 12$ ; multilingual  $n = 8$ ; M age = 2;8, range 1;11-3;4).



# Do multilingual and monolingual toddlers recognize words similarly when tested with touch screens?

- Monolinguals have higher accuracies than bilinguals.



**Thank you**