

SP - (15022) - A DIAGNOSTIC TOOL TO DETERMINE SCIENTIFIC GIFTEDNESS IN KINDERGARTEN AGE

Maria Sophie Schäfers (Germany)¹; Claas Wegner (Germany)¹

1 - Bielefeld University

Short Abstract

Studies show that natural scientific skills acquired in kindergarten have a major influence on school performance (Markowitz, 2004; authors anonymized). Particularly in view of the prevailing shortage of skilled workers in occupations in the natural sciences, the promotion of gifted and interested students seems to be necessary in order to motivate them for a career in this sector in the long term. Natural science subjects offer the possibility to investigate phenomena, develop questions and explore interests commonly seen in the everyday lives of children, using subject-specific methods such as experimenting, observing and finding action-oriented solutions (Steffensky, 2017). Therefore, a Test of Natural Scientific Abilities (TNSA) was developed for kindergarten children to explore their strengths and abilities in the natural sciences and to provide subsequent individual support. The TNSA consists of eight subtests that investigate a natural-scientific aptitude. A current comparative study shows a positive correlation between the Test of Natural Scientific Abilities (TNSA) and previously validated tests. Such a scientific diagnostic tool forms a basis for the research of early natural scientific abilities.