**BACKGROUND**

Pseudowords (PW) are legal non-words; they satisfy phonological and orthographic rules of a language, but not semantic.

- First recognized as an indication of language knowledge of preschool children by J. Berko (1958; see also Wagner et al., 1993).
- Important in explaining the features of phonological processing - confirmed in the clinical context, as well (Brea et al., 2007)

**METHOD**

**Participants:**
1) TD - BR: N = 68 (Female = 35); Mage = 8.21, SD = 0.34; Grade = 2nd;
2) TD - AR: N = 161 (Female = 67); Mage = 9.67, SD = 0.65; Grade = 3rd/4th;
3) CwD: N = 18 (Female = 7); Mage = 8.78, SD = 0.57; Grade = 3rd

**Materials:**
- Two lists created by combining sub-syllabic elements (repeating & reading): 17 PW in each list
- Length of 2-5 syllables, represented in the School Corpus of Written Language (Riddys, Kuvač Kraljević & Lenček, 2020) with occurrence > 10,000; subjective wordlikeness measures

**Procedure:**
- Individual testing by the SLP in the child’s school

**Data analysis:**
- Each list re-evaluated by two SLPs + data processed in IBM SPSS Statistics 24

**RESULTS**

**PW repetition:**
1) TD - BR: M = 11.59, SD = 1.31
2) TD - AR: M_{3ld} = 15.49, SD_{3ld} = 1.26; M_{4th} = 15.91, SD_{4th} = 1.28
3) CwD: M = 14, SD = 1.27

**PW reading:**
1) TD - BR: M = 11.5; SD = 3.49
2) TD - AR: M_{3ld} = 12.83, SD_{3ld} = 3.78; M_{4th} = 13.92, SD_{4th} = 2.96
3) CwD: M = 4.47, SD = 2.5

**DISCUSSION**

- For all participants: repeating PW easier than reading
- **Length:** phonological feature connected with success in repetition and reading regardless of reading abilities and automatization; longer PW = more demanding to store and recall from STM, as in previous studies (Baddley et al., 1998)
- **Segmental complexity:** connected with success in repetition and reading, except in repetition of TD - AR
- **Wordlikeness:** eliminating meaning increases reliance on pure phonological knowledge
- Only in CwD group it does not correlate with success in repetition nor reading = difficult to rely on phonological and lexical knowledge simultaneously

**EXPECTATION (PARTIALLY) CONFIRMED!**

**CONCLUSION**

- Pseudowords = important indicators of phonological processing & provide additional insights into its characteristics
- Very important to control their inherent linguistic features with respect to the language and its phonological structure