

## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

# Comparison of performance in metalinguistic tasks among students with and without risk of dyslexia

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## Abstract

**Introduction:** Studies on students at risk for dyslexia have increased as well as the interest in verifying whether tasks involving a phonological basis can favor the performance of these students in the initial literacy process.

**Objective:** Evaluate the performance of students with and without risk of dyslexia in metalinguistic tasks.

**Methods:** Participants of this study were 40 students, aged between 5-6 years, enrolled in the 1st year of elementary school, divided into two groups, GI: composed of 20 students without risk of dyslexia and GII: composed of 20 students at risk of dyslexia, both groups were submitted to the Evaluation Cognitive Linguistic Skills Protocol - collective and individual version (adapted), and phonological intervention composed of tasks of relation letter/sound alphabet in sequence and in random order, rhyme, identification and manipulation of words, identification and production of syllables, syllabic segmentation and analysis, identification and phonemic segmentation, substitution, synthesis, analysis and phonemic discrimination. **Results:** Indicated that the students from GI and GII showed statistically superior performance in the post testing compared to the performance obtained in the pre testing.

**Conclusion:** The students at risk of dyslexia showed an increase in the mean of performance after the intervention, however, when compared with the performance of the students without risk for dyslexia, they presented inferior performance, indicating that, even after have underwent to the intervention, they did not reach the mean of performance of students without risk for dyslexia in metalinguistic tests.

**Keywords:** learning, intervention study, dyslexia, child development, literacy

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## ■ INTRODUCTION

The dyslexia is a neurobiological condition that affects the learning of reading and writing. It is characterized by slow and imprecise word recognition due to poor ability of phonological decoding, as well as, the generalization of the spelling of sounds to letter/sound correspondence and difficulties in spelling, where normally capacities such as concentration, working memory, organization and sequencing are hindered<sup>1,2</sup>.

However, there are individuals with dyslexia who have cognitive-linguistic and academic deficits in other areas, such as attention, mathematical calculus and written expression, and the ability to use suprasegmental information such as rhyme and prosody, as well as, in the generalization of the spelling of sounds to the letter/sound correspondence<sup>3</sup>.

The early identification of students at risk for dyslexia is performed with the survey of the main signs that allow the characterization of dyslexia in the preschool which are the presence of systematic and/or unsystematic exchanges, substitutions and/or omissions in speech associated with low school performance in relation to their class group<sup>4-7</sup>.

Their identification allows them to be exposed to the context of the intervention in order to minimize the

characteristics of the condition and its interference in the learning of reading and writing<sup>4,8-10</sup>. As well as, offer subsidies to verify if, after the accomplishment of interventional programs with phonological approach, involving the stimulation of the cognitive-linguistic abilities, that are altered or in delay, the students show or not improvement in the school learning<sup>11,12</sup>.

Recent researches have been carried out aiming to investigate the initial process of literacy, for 1st year of elementary school students, submitted to activities with phonological base, seeking to verify its benefits in relation to educational changes and the earlier exposure of these children to formal education for literacy.

These studies also aim the early identification of students who present learning disabilities, being characterized as an initial difficulty in the formal teaching of reading and writing or for those who may have a diagnosis of dyslexia, making it possible to follow this child at school and having an indication of clinical intervention<sup>5,8,13</sup>.

Thus, the objective of this study is to evaluate the performance of students with and without risk for dyslexia in metalinguistic tasks.

## ■ METHODS

This is a comparative study, which was submitted and approved by the Committee of Ethics in Research of the School of Philosophy and Sciences of the Universidade Estadual Paulista (CEP - FFC - Unesp) under the protocol number 686/2009.

The sample consisted of 40 students from the 1st year of elementary school, 17 girls and 23 boys, aged 5 to 6 years, divided into two groups:

**Group I (GI):** composed of 20 students without risk for dyslexia who underwent a phonological intervention program, 10 (50%) girls and 10 (50%) boys.

The students, without risk of dyslexia, with good academic performance were indicated by the teachers following the criterion of satisfactory performance in two consecutive bimesters, compared to their class group. The data collection was performed at the school after staff approval, the signing of the Informed Consent Term by the parents or responsible of the students, and the definition of the schedule for the data collection by teachers.

**Group II (GII):** composed of 20 students at risk for dyslexia who underwent a phonological intervention program, 7 (35%) girls and 13 (65%) boys.

The students of this group were identified through the application of the Children's Language Test in the areas of phonology, vocabulary, fluency and pragmatics – ABFW<sup>14</sup>, for the identification and confirmation of the diagnosis of phonological disorder and, after confirmation from the teachers of those students who had performance under the expected, unsatisfactory performance in two consecutive bimesters, in comparison to the class group, for the predictive abilities for literacy.

The data collection began after the signing of the

Informed Consent Term by the parents or responsible of the students.

As exclusion criterion was considered the presence of sensory, motor or cognitive deficiency and as inclusion criterion was considered the signing of the Informed Consent Term, absence of auditory or visual complaint described in the school records and based on audiological and ophthalmological examination performed prior to the study, and without interventions of speech and language therapy previously to the study. And never performed intervention of speech and language therapy previously to the study.

The students were paired according to age and age group. The sample was collected by statistical indication, so that the data could offer reliability, considering an average of 3:1, that is, three students for each one. However, there was no sample loss and it was decided to use of the whole sample. The ratio of 3 students to a 1 (3:1) is a statistical mean in the case of sample loss, so that the number of students surveyed in this sample is relevant.

The procedures used in pre and post-test were:

Cognitive-Linguistic Performance Test - collective version<sup>15</sup>. This version was composed for subtests of recognition of the alphabet in sequence, words dictated and pseudo words and dictation of digits. Besides the subtests cited were added the subtests of recognition of the alphabet in random order and mute dictation.

Cognitive-Linguistic Performance Test - individual version<sup>15</sup>. This version was composed for subtests of reading words and non words, rhyme, alliteration, syllabic segmentation, auditory discrimination, repetition of words and non words, numbers game inverted, rapid automatic naming pictures and rapid automatic naming of digits. This version was added the subtest rapid automatic naming of

colors of the Rapid Automatic Naming – RAN<sup>16</sup>.

The evaluation tests used in pre and post-testing were applied in four sessions, with two sessions for pre-testing and two sessions for post-testing, lasting 50 minutes each.

The tests of the collective and individual version of the protocol were adapted to the students of this age group, since this procedure is indicated for students from 9 years old on. The adaptations were made through the selection and presentation of the tests without altering the stimuli, that is, the words of the test were not altered only the form of presenting them was modified, maintaining the reliability to the cognitive-linguistic stimuli proposed by the test.

The phonological intervention program was developed during 15 cumulative sessions that is each session presented a new activity that was worked together with the task developed in the previous session, lasting 50

minutes each, twice a week.

The steps were sequentially executed in the following order: identification of sounds and letters of the alphabet, identification of sounds and letters of the alphabet in random order, identification and production of rhyme, production of rhyme with phrases, identification and manipulation of words, identification and production of syllable, segmentation and analysis syllabic, identification and segmentation phonemic, substitution, synthesis, discrimination and analysis phonemic<sup>17</sup>.

The results were statistically analyzed using the program SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences), in its version 20.0, based on the number of correct answers submitted by GI and GII, in relation to results obtained. As statistical test was used Mann-Whitney Test, in order to verify possible differences in comparing the groups studied. The level of significance adopted was 5% (0,05) for the application statistical tests.

## RESULTS

In the comparison of the performance for reading ability, we can verify that there was a statistically significant difference for GII students in all subtests, in comparison to pre and post-testing, as well as for GI students, which also presented statistically significant difference in all the subtests, except for the recognition of the alphabet in sequence and for the recognition of the alphabet in random

order. The results suggest that the increase in the mean of performance for the GII students in the tests related to the reading ability occurred due to the intervention work involving the explicit teaching of the letter/sound relation, since, the increase of the average of performance in word and non word reading tests is the reflection of the alphabet recognition in sequence and in random order (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Distribution of the performance of students of GI and GII, in pre and post-testing, in the Reading .

Variables / Group		Mean	Standard deviation	Minimum	Maximum	Perc 25	Per 50 Median	Per 75	p-value
Alf GI	Pré	26,00	0,00	26,00	26,00	26,00	26,00	26,00	1,000
	Pós	26,00	0,00	26,00	26,00	26,00	26,00	26,00	
Alf GII	Pré	23,15	4,60	7,00	26,00	22,00	25,50	26,00	0,005*
	Pós	25,60	1,00	22,00	26,00	26,00	26,00	26,00	
Alf AI GI	Pré	25,85	0,67	23,00	26,00	26,00	26,00	26,00	1,000
	Pós	25,85	0,67	23,00	26,00	26,00	26,00	26,00	
Alf AI GII	Pré	21,40	5,55	6,00	26,00	19,25	22,50	26,00	0,002*
	Pós	24,60	2,85	18,00	26,00	25,25	26,00	26,00	
LP GI	Pré	180,75	108,84	60,00	493,00	80,25	165,00	249,00	0,024*
	Pós	160,80	95,19	54,00	467,00	75,00	167,50	209,25	
LP GII	Pré	373,45	398,75	0,00	1453,00	95,75	238,00	471,25	0,003*
	Pós	260,35	239,22	0,00	866,00	116,75	189,00	342,50	
LNP GI	Pré	56,65	31,05	0,00	145,00	32,75	55,00	74,75	0,005*
	Pós	56,70	44,23	13,00	217,00	30,50	48,50	73,00	
LNP GII	Pré	91,75	91,91	0,00	337,00	9,25	69,50	163,00	0,001*
	Pós	73,35	79,72	0,00	294,00	7,00	50,50	121,25	
Corm GI	Pré	23,15	11,31	0,00	40,00	14,75	24,00	34,25	0,000*
	Pós	32,20	8,09	12,00	40,00	26,25	35,50	39,00	
Corm GII	Pré	13,00	11,48	0,00	37,00	0,25	12,50	22,00	0,000*
	Pós	18,95	10,69	0,00	40,00	10,00	20,50	27,00	

**Legend:** Alf: alphabet, Alf AI: random alphabet, LP: words reading, LPN: no words reading, Corm: correct in 1(one) minute.

For the writing ability, we can verify that there was a statistically significant difference in pre and post-testing in the subtests of alphabet writing, dictation of words and no words pre and post-testing, total dictation pre and post-

testing and mute dictation pre and post-testing. The data suggest that the learning of the letter/sound relationship, through the intervention program, was favorable for the performance in relation to the coding of words and not

words, since this type of intervention assists the generative mechanism of phonological memory used in writing processes (Table 2).

When comparing the results of the phonological awareness ability, we can verify that there was a statistically significant difference for subtests of alliteration, rhyme and

**Table 2.** Distribution of the performance of students of GI and GII, in pre and post-testing, in the Writing Ability.

Variables/ Group		Mean	Standard deviation	Minimum	Maximum	Perc 25	Per 50 Median	Per 75	p-value
E Alf GI	Pré	25,85	0,49	24,00	26,00	26,00	26,00	26,00	0,180
	Pós	26,00	0,00	26,00	26,00	26,00	26,00	26,00	
E Alf GII	Pré	20,75	6,46	7,00	26,00	15,50	24,50	26,00	0,001*
	Pós	24,20	3,58	12,00	26,00	23,50	26,00	26,00	
DP GI	Pré	17,75	4,51	8,00	26,00	16,25	18,50	20,00	0,000*
	Pós	27,50	3,76	16,00	30,00	26,00	29,00	30,00	
DP GII	Pré	12,65	9,19	0,00	28,00	1,75	14,50	19,75	0,000*
	Pós	20,25	9,17	0,00	30,00	16,00	24,00	27,00	
DNP GI	Pré	5,15	1,76	2,00	9,00	3,25	5,00	6,00	0,000*
	Pós	7,55	1,23	5,00	9,00	7,00	7,50	9,00	
DNP GII	Pré	2,30	2,39	0,00	7,00	0,00	1,50	5,00	0,001*
	Pós	3,90	2,17	0,00	7,00	2,00	4,50	5,75	
DT GI	Pré	30,70	5,12	23,00	39,00	25,50	32,50	35,00	0,002*
	Pós	35,05	4,63	21,00	39,00	32,00	37,00	38,00	
DT GII	Pré	14,95	10,66	0,00	33,00	2,25	17,00	24,00	0,000*
	Pós	24,15	11,14	0,00	36,00	18,50	28,00	32,75	
DM GI	Pré	16,95	1,99	13,00	20,00	16,00	17,00	18,75	0,002*
	Pós	18,50	1,64	15,00	20,00	18,00	19,00	20,00	
DM GII	Pré	5,90	4,90	0,00	14,00	0,50	5,50	10,50	0,000*
	Pós	9,10	4,86	0,00	16,00	5,50	8,50	13,75	

**Legend:** E Alf: writing the alphabet, DP: words dictation, DNP: no words dictation, DM: mute dictation.

syllabic segmentation in pre and post-testing, for both groups, suggesting that the interventional work with phonological abilities reflected in the perception of larger sound segments, such as syllables and word endings, and in the perception of smaller segments such as phonemes (Table 3).

In the comparison of pre and post-testing for auditory processing ability, it was possible to verify statistically

significant difference in subtests of discrimination of sounds, repetition of words and non words, dictation of numbers and inverted numbers, for the pre and post-testing, of the GI and GII groups, indicating that there was an improvement in performance in relation to sound perception, for the storage and retrieval of information for words and digits, in both groups (Table 4).

**Table 3.** Distribution of the performance of students of GI and GII, in pre and post-testing, in the Phonological Awareness Ability.

Variables/ Group		Mean	Standard deviation	Minimum	Maximum	Perc 25	Per 50 Median	Per 75	p-value
Alit GI	Pré	18,20	1,61	15,00	20,00	17,00	18,50	19,75	0,001*
	Pós	19,90	0,45	18,00	20,00	20,00	20,00	20,00	
Alit GII	Pré	12,85	4,78	0,00	20,00	10,25	12,50	17,00	0,000*
	Pós	17,45	2,19	13,00	20,00	16,00	17,50	19,75	
Rhyme GI	Pré	17,25	2,29	12,00	20,00	16,25	18,00	19,00	0,000*
	Pós	19,85	0,49	18,00	20,00	20,00	20,00	20,00	
Rhyme GII	Pré	11,05	3,93	3,00	17,00	8,25	11,00	14,00	0,000*
	Pós	17,40	2,04	11,00	20,00	17,00	17,50	18,75	
SS GI	Pré	8,70	1,49	4,00	10,00	8,00	9,00	10,00	0,001*
	Pós	10,00	0,00	10,00	10,00	10,00	10,00	10,00	
SS GII	Pré	8,45	1,93	3,00	10,00	8,00	9,00	10,00	0,003*
	Pós	9,65	0,67	8,00	10,00	9,25	10,00	10,00	

**Legend:** Alit: alliteration, SS: syllabic segmentation

In the comparison of the pre and post-testing groups, in relation to the ability of processing speed, there was statistically significant difference for the subtests of rapid naming of figures, first and second rapid naming of numbers and rapid naming of colors for GI, differently from GII that

presented statistically significant result only for the rapid naming of colors. Suggesting improved processing, access and retrieval of visual information for GI and performance maintenance, without influences from the phonological intervention program for GII (Table 5).

**Table 4.** Distribution of the performance of students of GI and GII, in pre and post-testing, in the Auditory Processement Ability

Variables / Group		Mean	Standard deviation	Minimum	Maximum	Perc 25	Per 50 Me-dian	Per 75	p-value
DS GI	Pré	17,40	3,78	5,00	20,00	17,00	19,00	20,00	0,001*
	Pós	19,55	1,15	16,00	20,00	20,00	20,00	20,00	
DS GII	Pré	13,80	2,53	9,00	19,00	12,00	14,00	15,75	0,000*
	Pós	17,65	2,56	11,00	20,00	17,00	18,00	19,00	
RP GI	Pré	4,95	0,95	3,00	6,00	4,25	5,00	6,00	0,017*
	Pós	5,55	0,51	5,00	6,00	5,00	6,00	6,00	
RP GII	Pré	3,20	1,20	2,00	6,00	2,00	3,00	4,00	0,001*
	Pós	4,75	0,91	3,00	6,00	4,00	5,00	5,00	
RNP GI	Pré	2,30	0,73	1,00	4,00	2,00	2,00	2,75	0,366
	Pós	2,45	0,61	2,00	4,00	2,00	2,00	3,00	
RNP GII	Pré	2,40	0,68	2,00	4,00	2,00	2,00	3,00	0,005*
	Pós	2,80	0,62	2,00	4,00	2,00	3,00	3,00	
N GI	Pré	73,25	19,30	44,00	116,00	58,75	70,50	83,50	0,021*
	Pós	65,45	14,38	43,00	99,00	56,50	63,00	75,25	
N GII	Pré	83,75	22,30	49,00	117,00	60,25	86,50	106,50	0,000*
	Pós	64,85	13,43	43,00	93,00	56,00	63,00	74,25	
NI GI	Pré	3,35	1,46	0,00	6,00	2,00	3,00	4,75	0,006*
	Pós	4,05	1,23	2,00	6,00	3,00	4,00	5,00	
NI GII	Pré	3,45	1,28	0,00	6,00	3,00	3,50	4,00	0,001*
	Pós	4,40	1,00	2,00	6,00	4,00	4,50	5,00	

**Legend:** DS: sound discrimination, RP: words repetition, RNP: no words repetition, N: numbers, NI: invert numbers.

**Table 5.** Distribution of students performance of GI and GII, in pre and post-testing, in the Speed Processement Ability.

Variables/Group		Mean	Standard deviation	Minimum	Maximum	Perc 25	Per 50 Me-dian	Per 75	p-value
NRF GI	Pré	43,30	7,28	32,00	58,00	38,25	43,00	46,00	0,004*
	Pós	38,10	5,97	23,00	49,00	34,00	38,50	42,75	
NRF GII	Pré	50,05	7,08	40,00	64,00	44,00	49,00	56,00	0,056
	Pós	47,20	6,34	34,00	58,00	42,00	48,00	51,75	
NRN1 GI	Pré	43,30	8,26	32,00	63,00	37,00	41,50	49,00	0,002*
	Pós	39,05	6,00	29,00	49,00	34,25	38,00	45,50	
NRN1 GII	Pré	54,65	17,68	0,00	83,00	49,75	55,50	65,00	0,211
	Pós	54,30	13,25	35,00	95,00	45,75	51,50	61,75	
NRN2 GI	Pré	43,45	7,63	31,00	64,00	38,75	41,50	47,00	0,003*
	Pós	38,30	3,91	34,00	47,00	35,25	37,00	40,50	
NRN2 GII	Pré	53,65	17,84	0,00	83,00	46,00	57,00	64,50	0,096
	Pós	53,95	11,77	35,00	87,00	47,25	55,00	58,00	
NRC GI	Pré	73,25	19,30	44,00	116,00	58,75	70,50	83,50	0,009*
	Pós	65,45	14,38	43,00	99,00	56,50	63,00	75,25	
NRC GII	Pré	83,75	22,30	49,00	117,00	60,25	86,50	106,50	0,001*
	Pós	64,85	13,43	43,00	93,00	56,00	63,00	74,25	

**Legend:** NRF: rapid naming of figures, NRN1: rapid naming of numbers/first, NRN2: rapid naming of numbers/second, NRC: rapid naming of colors.

## ■ DISCUSSION

In the comparison of the performance of GI and GII, for the reading ability, the students of GII obtained superior performance in the subtests of Recognition of the Alphabet and Recognition of the Random Alphabet associated with sounds, after the application of the intervention program, indicating that the work involving the letter/sound relationship and the phonological abilities favored the performance of these students regarding the sound perception (phoneme) and its corresponding graphic (letter). For the tests related to reading words, not words and correct in one minute, was observed decrease in average performance for reading words and not words with increased performance averages for the number of words read correctly in one minute, which suggests to the interference of the decoding and the access to the phonological memory, formed during the intervention, making the reading more laborious, fast and assertive<sup>6,11</sup>.

For writing ability, the superior performance in post-testing compared to pre-testing, to students of GII, indicates that the effects of phonological awareness when worked on in the initial series of the literacy, through letter/sound association, allows access to phonological memory for word formation, which can be retrieved during writing. Thus, students with phonological deficits, such as those observed in students of GII, when inserted in interventional programs with instruction in phonological aspects tend to overcome errors that were previously unnoticeable for this type of population, but which will reflect, in the future, the acquisition of writing, since the development of phonological awareness helps in the process of coding words and not words, positively interfering with the access to phonological route (for the formation of new words) and the lexical route (for access to words already belonging to the vocabulary of the child)<sup>7,15,18</sup>.

In the subtests of Rhyme, Alliteration and Syllabic Segmentation there was an increase in the mean performance for the GI and GII groups, from the work performed with the phonological intervention program. However, we can verify that the increase in the average performance for the correct answers of the students of the GII was lower than the average reached by the students of the GI.

Such performance may be justified by the fact that the difficulties of students at risk for dyslexia, belonging to the GII group, to perform this type of test suggest a deficit in phonological representation, that is, a disorganization in the access to the phonological processing of the information or even the little ability to manipulate the representations in the superior cognitive level, originating from the diagnosis of phonological disorder and characteristic of individuals with dyslexia<sup>9,10,19</sup>. Thus, the type of stimulus offered during the intervention was efficient to increase the mean of performance in specific activities of phonological awareness related to learning, but they were not sufficient to reach the performance of the students without risk for dyslexia<sup>20,21</sup>.

For the auditory processing ability, in the comparison of the pre and post-testing, the students of the GII group presented statistically significant performance for all evaluated subtests.

Recent studies indicate that the work with phonological awareness exerts influence in abilities that involve the discrimination of the acoustic signals (phonemes), also

helping, in the retention of the information in the phonological memory<sup>6,13,20,22</sup>. Thus, activities involving the repetition of words and not words, and the repetition of sequences, be they digits or figures, involve directly the processing auditory and/or visual of information, retention and retrieval of stored information for stimulus reproduction requested<sup>8,10,23-25</sup>.

Thus, for the GII group, composed of students at risk for dyslexia, the difficulty in discriminating auditory stimuli and in processing auditory information may be more compromised, due to a characteristic of the phonological disorder<sup>26</sup>. However, when working on the discrimination of sounds in the early stages of literacy, the difficulty in distinguishing and storing information for future use in reading tasks, for example, becomes more effective, because phonological work memory will be able to temporarily retain and manipulate information while participating in other specific cognitive tasks, favoring performance in oral comprehension, as can be observed in students of the GI<sup>24,25</sup>.

In the comparison of pre and post-testing for the Processing Speed Ability, the results indicate statistically significant difference for the subtests of Rapid Naming of Figures, Numbers and colors for students of GI, with statistically significant difference for students of GII, only for subtest of rapid naming of colors. The decrease of the means of performance is a positive factor, because these tests are evaluated by the time necessary for the execution of the test. This indicates a better performance average for students in the GI group, possibly due to the intervention done. In contrast, the maintenance of performance averages for students in the GII group suggests a difficulty in processing visual stimuli, which may be due to a change in the visual processing of the information, which is a difficulty found in children with dyslexia, which could justify the performance of this group<sup>6,10,21-23</sup>.

The literature also indicates that the performance of students at risk for dyslexia belonging to the GII group can be explained due to the change in access to information, related to a phonological based disorder characteristic of the diagnosis of phonological disorder, suggesting the overload of phonological memory generated by the deficit in the phonological processing of the information and, consequently, the necessity for more time to perform decoding can be transferred to more complex activities such as reading and writing.

In conclusion, students at risk for dyslexia showed higher performance averages after exposure to intervention involving metalinguistic tasks, which afforded the development of skills of reading, writing, phonological awareness, processing speed and auditory processing.

However, when compared with the performance of students without risk for dyslexia, it was possible to verify that students at risk for dyslexia were underperformance, indicating, even after, underwent to the intervention they did not reach the averages of performance of students without risk for dyslexia in metalinguistic tests.

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## Resumo

**Introdução:** Estudos sobre escolares de risco para a dislexia tem se tornado cada vez mais frequentes, assim como, o interesse em verificar se as tarefas envolvendo uma base fonológica podem favorecer o desempenho desses escolares em processo inicial de alfabetização.

**Objetivo:** Avaliar o desempenho de escolares com e sem risco para a dislexia em tarefas metalinguísticas.

**Método:** Participaram deste estudo 40 escolares, com idade entre 5 a 6 anos, matriculados no 1º ano do ensino fundamental, divididos em dois grupos, GI: composto por 20 escolares sem risco para dislexia e GII: composto por 20 escolares de risco para a dislexia, ambos os grupos foram submetidos ao Protocolo de Avaliação das Habilidades Cognitivo-Linguísticas nas versões coletiva e individual (adaptado), e a intervenção fonológica composta por tarefas de relação letra/som do alfabeto em sequência e em ordem aleatória, rima, identificação e manipulação de palavras, identificação e produção de sílabas, segmentação e análise silábica, identificação e segmentação fonêmica, substituição, síntese, análise e discriminação fonêmica.

**Resultados:** Indicaram que os escolares do GI e GII apresentaram desempenho estatisticamente superior na pós-testagem comparado ao desempenho obtido na pré-testagem.

**Conclusão:** Os escolares de risco para a dislexia apresentaram aumento das médias de desempenho após a intervenção, no entanto, ao ser comparado com o desempenho dos escolares sem risco para a dislexia, apresentaram desempenho inferior, indicando que, mesmo após, submetidos à intervenção, não alcançaram as médias de desempenho dos escolares sem risco para a dislexia em provas metalinguísticas.

**Palavras-chave:** aprendizagem, estudos de intervenção, dislexia, desenvolvimento infantil, alfabetização

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