

CENTRE OF DIVERSITY AND LEARNING & TEACHER EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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MEASURING TEACHERS' ATTENTIONAL DISTRIBUTION & PROFESSIONAL VISION IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION USING MOBILE EYE TRACKING

Research context: SBO-FWO Tacos

Teacher language input and teacher-child interactions are critical in language development (Grifenhagen & Dickinson, 2023), particularly for low SES students (Suskind et al., 2018). **Because** interactions between children and peers are low frequent (Peleman et al., 2019). And there are language input disparities in the home environment (Fernald et al., 2013).

But: Language development opportunities are not divided equally over all children (Black, 2004; Peleman et al., 2019).

This research project will develop and measure the language stimulating competences of early childhood teachers. The Blömeke-model will be used to investigate intervention effects. This model views competencies along a continuum from dispositions that influence our perception and interpretation of classroom situations, which in turn leads to performance in the classroom (Blömeke et al., 2015).

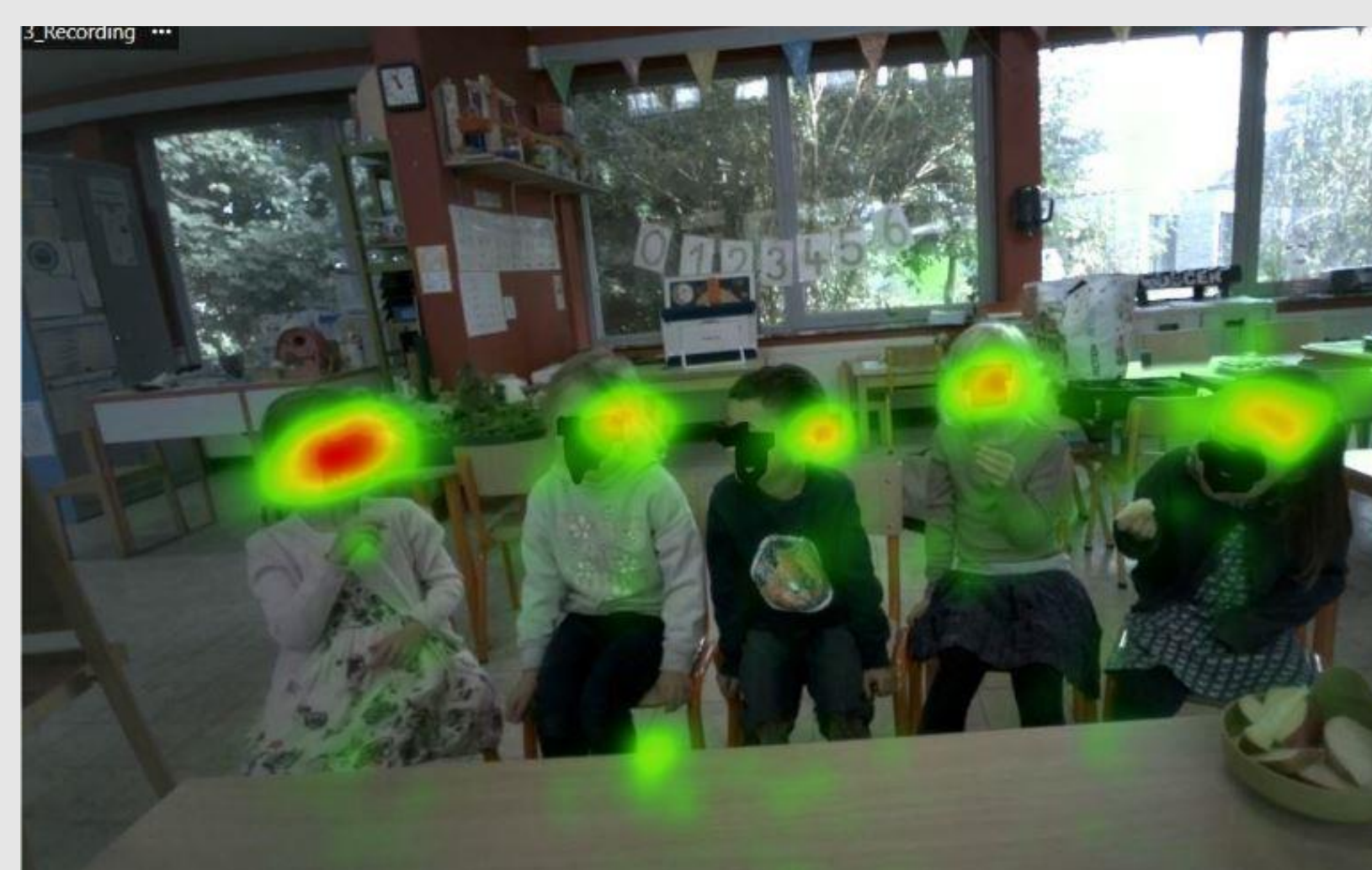
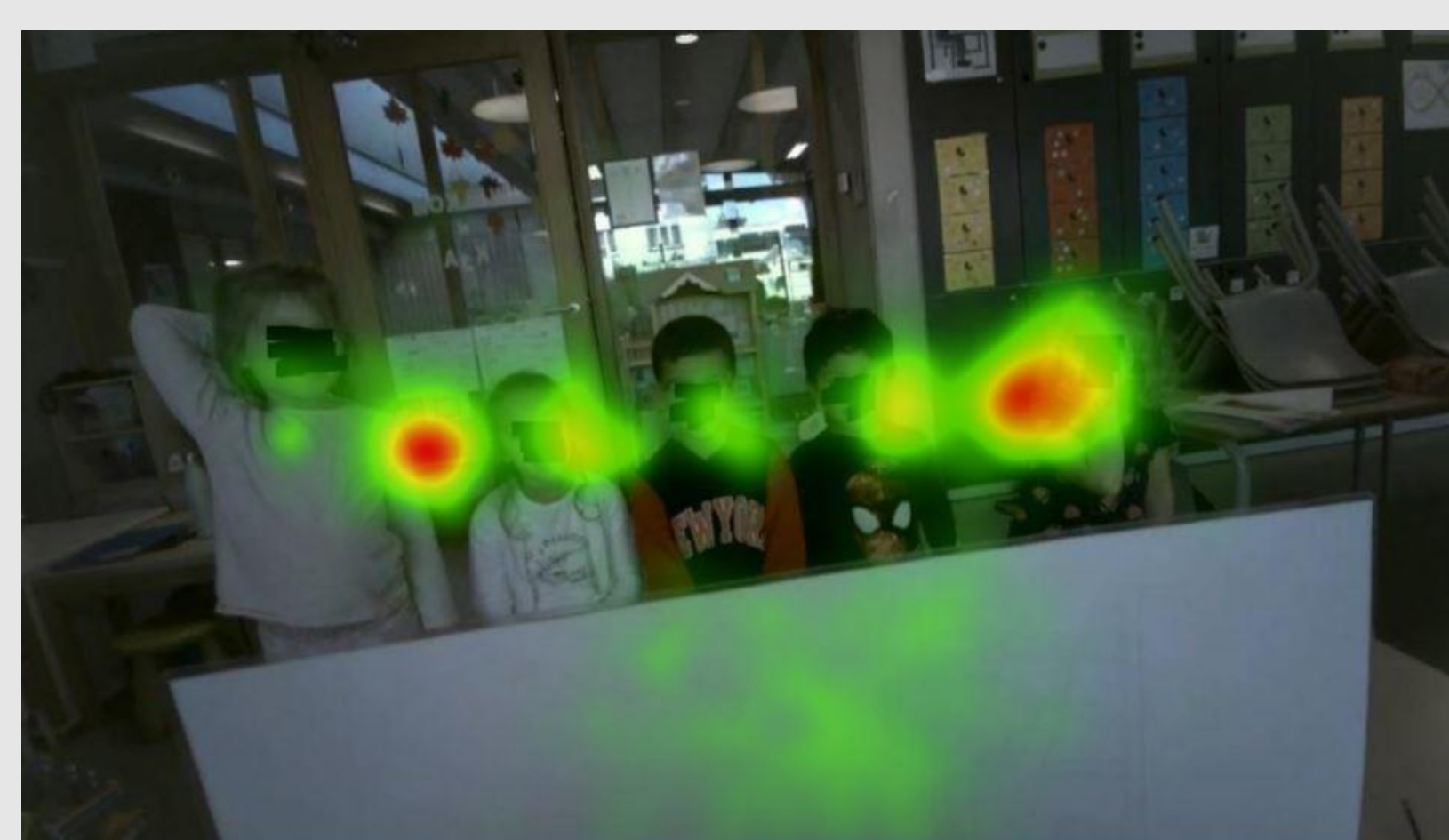
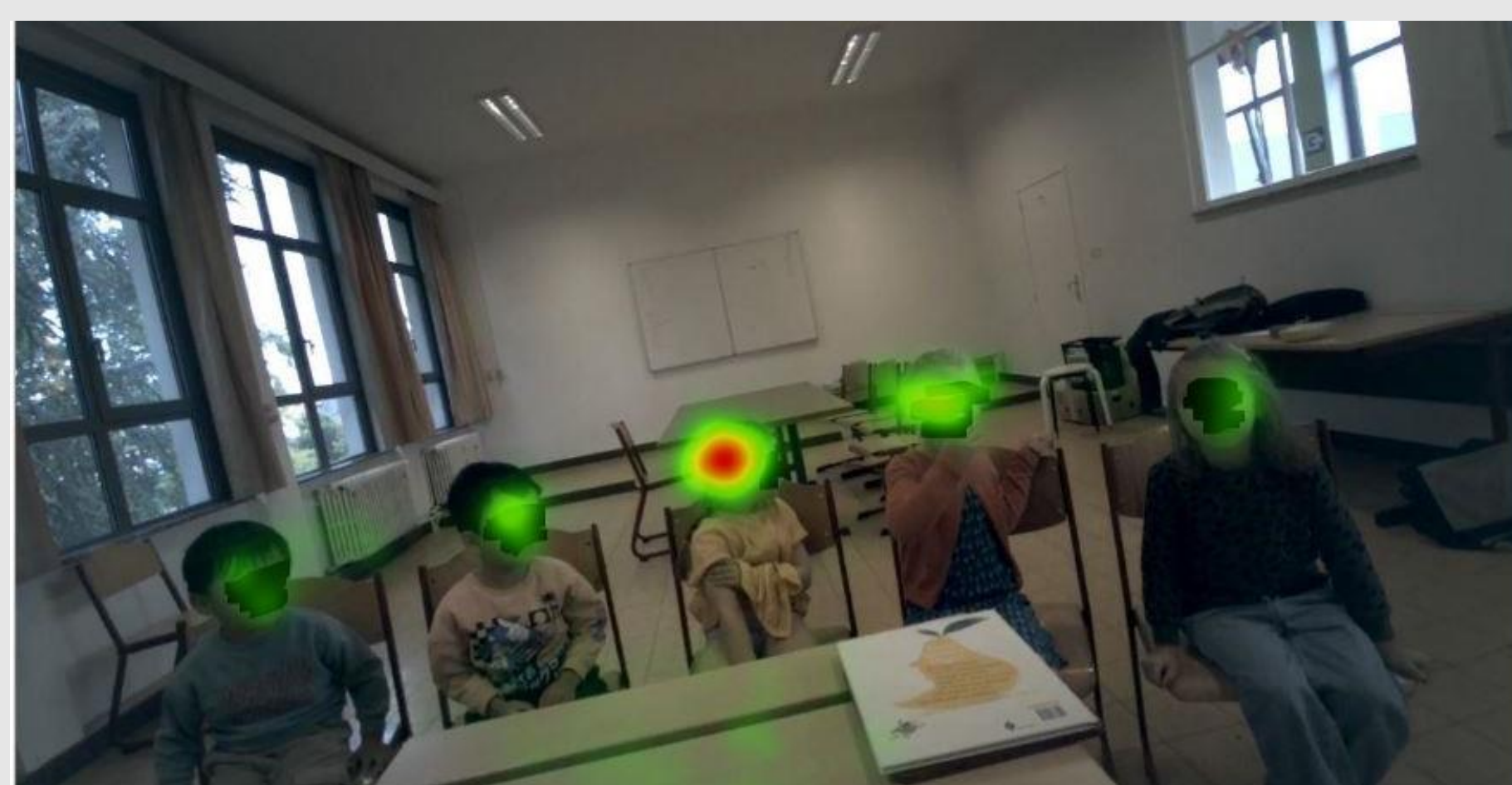
This PhD-research: "How do early childhood teachers distribute their attention during language learning activities in the classroom and how do they reflect upon this?"

- ✓ Eye contact is important in language interaction between teacher and child (Hataaja et al., 2021) .
- ✓ Eye gaze is not distributed equally (İnan-Kaya & Rubie-Davies, 2022; Smidekova et al., 2020). But it is unknown what influences the aiming of attention.
- ✓ Mobile eye tracking is a new, advanced way of looking into professional vision. It has not been done with early childhood teachers in this context.
- ✓ Eye tracking has been used in previous research to measure implicit teacher bias, including in early childhood settings (Gilliam et al., 2016; İnan-Kaya & Rubie-Davies, 2022).

First results

- Teachers' attention is not distributed evenly
- Children's speaking confidence is the most important factor in succeeding to attract teacher attention
- Teachers' beliefs and attitudes are important in explaining teacher attention

Which children are being overlooked?



Tobii Pro Glasses 3

Sample: 50 teachers, 250 children
100 language activities
1000 minutes eye-tracking data
30 stimulated recall interviews

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