

# Construction and validation of educational videos for adolescents with Down Syndrome based on health literacy – LISA Down Program

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## Abstract

*Objectives:* to construct and validate educational videos as part of the LISA Down Program – Literacy and Innovation in Health for Adolescents with Down Syndrome.

*Methods:* this is a methodological study of construction and validation of educational videos based on health literacy designed for adolescents with Down syndrome, assisted by an Associação de Pais e Amigos dos Excepcionais (APAE) (Association of Parents and Friends of the Exceptional) located in the Northeast of Brazil. The stages of construction and validation of the videos were: pre-production, production and post-production. The storyboards were prepared according to the fundamentals of health literacy and validated by seven expert judges. Subsequently, the storyboards were transformed into videos (production) and these were evaluated by 13 adolescents with Down Syndrome (post-production).

*Results:* the storyboards totaled 248 scenes, ranging from 39 to 67 scenes each, were approved by the judges with percentages of agreement ranging from 94% to 100%. The videos recorded were approved by adolescents with Down syndrome, in agreement of percentages ranging from 79.17% to 83.33%.

*Conclusion:* the educational videos were validated and well evaluated and, therefore, can be used among adolescents in social spaces in which the focus of attention is adolescents with Down syndrome.

**Key words** Down Syndrome, Adolescent, Educational video



## Introduction

According to the *Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística* (IBGE) (Brazilian Institute of Statistical Geography), in Brazil in 2018 there were about 45 million people with some physical disability and Down Syndrome (DS) was found in one in every 700 births, totaling approximately

This syndrome is characterized by a genetic alteration in chromosome 21, also known as “Trisomy 21”. People with this syndrome are more likely to develop chronic health problems, such as heart, visual, and hearing problems, in addition to presenting obesity, respiratory alteration, apnea, and altered thyroid function. Moreover, due to the developmental delays caused by the syndrome, people with DS need educational and support actions to promote self-care, teaching procedures, such as dressing, performing daily personal hygiene activities, and issues related to education, leisure, and health.<sup>2</sup>

According to the *Constituição da República Federativa do Brasil de 1988* (1988 Constitution of the Federative Republic of Brazil), health is a right of everyone and a duty of the State, which establishes the universal and equal access to actions and services to promote, protect and recover.<sup>3</sup> In this conception, the importance of the Health Literacy (HL) fundamentals should be emphasized in the processes of promoting, protecting and recovering health, contributing to the development of the individuals and the community’s autonomy

HL refers to the individuals’ ability to access, understand, evaluate, and apply health information to make decisions that promote health, prevent and control diseases, and improve the quality of life of these individuals and, consequently, of the collectivity.<sup>4</sup>

In order to promote HL, health professionals should develop strategies as materials for digital, written and oral communication, such as videos, podcasts, Instagram profiles, among others, that consider the principles and fundamentals of HL, as well as the target audience for which the communication strategies and materials were developed. By promoting lifelong educational actions that consider these issues, we intend to empower individuals and collectivity to improve the quality of life for everyone.<sup>5</sup>

However, the development of adequate strategies and materials based on HL for people with DS can be a great challenge. From this perspective, LISA, an acronym for *Letramento e Inovação em Saúde* (Literacy and Innovation in Health), a trademark registered in the *Instituto Nacional de Propriedade Industrial* (INPI) (National Institute of Industrial Property), from the Nutrition and Chronic-Degenerative Diseases research group of the *Universidade Estadual do Ceará* (State University of Ceará), aimed to construct and validate educational videos based on

HL for adolescents with DS, as part of the LISA Down Program – Adolescents’ Literacy and Innovation in Health for everyone as well DS.

## Methods

This is a methodological study to develop technical production, specifically the development of didactic material,<sup>6</sup> that is, the construction and validation of educational videos based on HL or adolescents with DS, assisted by an *Associação de Pais e Amigos dos Excepcionais* (APAE) (Association of Parents and Friends of Exceptional Children), located in Northeast Brazil.

This present study is part of a project since 2017 and has not yet been completed, which includes the development of website, applications to use on cell phones, educational videos and podcasts by using via Internet or closed circuit, which will focus on healthy lifestyles in promoting health and in the prevention and control of chronic non-communicable diseases, based on health literacy to use complementary educational actions carried out in the *Sistema Único de Saúde* (SUS), (Public Health System). This project is the “*Plano Conecta Saúde: (Plan to Connect Health) allying technological innovation and health literacy to fight against chronic non-communicable diseases*”.<sup>7</sup>

The LISA Down Program, in turn, part of the *Plano Conecta Saúde* includes three themes that addresses healthy eating for the DS public: obesity prevention and control strategies, hygiene care with food, and personal hygiene care when handling food. In this way, the themes are related to basic activities of daily living.<sup>8</sup>

The video development process includes three stages: pre-production (synopsis, script, storyboard); production (recording); and post-production (editing).<sup>9</sup>

In the pre-production stage, the content and its subdivisions, the sequence of the content, and the combined sequence of texts and images for each video were defined:

At the end of this phase, we obtained five storyboards for five interdependent videos that should be watched in the sequence in which they were proposed, referring to the three themes mentioned:

1) Healthy weight protects me from diseases (46 scenes – 5’56’’): what is a healthy weight; how do I know if my weight is healthy; what diseases I can have if I weigh too much?.

2) How to eat healthy (38 scenes – 6’09’’): what is healthy eating; knowing and selecting food to eat; what kind of food is good for your health; what kind of food is bad for your health; how much eating is important; how can I put together my daily meals.

3) Hygiene care with food - how to buy (67 scenes – 8’42’’): selecting safe food to eat; meat, poultry and fish:

how to know if they are good; vegetables and fruit: how to choose them; milk, yogurt, cheese and eggs: how to choose them; processed food: looking at the packaging and expiration date.

4) Hygiene care with food - what I should do at home (58 scenes – 7'27'"): where to store each type of food; how to store each type of food; how to choose the food to eat first; caring about food before preparing and eating it.

5) My hygiene care before eating (39 scenes – 4'26'"): care with my hands; care with the plates, glasses, and cutlery I will use to eat; caring for where I will eat.

The contents of the topics described were based on the guidelines of the *Guia Alimentar para a População Brasileira*<sup>10</sup> (Food Guide for the Brazilian Population), on the *Diretrizes Brasileiras de Obesidade*<sup>11</sup> (Brazilian Guidelines on Obesity), and recommendations on food hygiene.<sup>12</sup>

The written part and the selection of images followed the HL fundamentals contained in a compilation carried out in a previous study.<sup>13</sup> The storyboards were developed in the free version of the Canva® application. The images were extracted from this application or from other platforms with copyright-free images, or relevant photographs were taken.

Once developed, the storyboards were submitted to validate by expertize judges. The selection of the judges was based on their experience and qualification in the area of interest, knowledge about the elaboration of educational material, knowledge about the assumptions of health literacies and about the elaboration of digital materials. The areas of interest were: Health literacy and/or health educational videos and/or health education for adolescents with DS. The ideal number of judges is not consensual, so we followed a recommendation that suggests six to twenty experts,<sup>14</sup> and here, seven judges were included.

Their inclusion criteria were having a master's or doctoral degree and having at least one scientific production on the subject in the last three years. Scientific production included: authorship of a dissertation or thesis on the topic; supervision of a dissertation or thesis on the topic; authorship or co-authorship of books or chapters of book on the topic; authorship or co-authorship of an article on the topic; responsibility for a post-graduate course (master's or doctorate) on the topic.

The judges were located by searching the *Plataforma Lattes do Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico* (CNPq) (Lattes Platform of the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development). The contact took place via e-mail, with a link to access Google Forms, where the following were made available: an invitation letter, the Informed Consent Form, and the storyboards, with the respective evaluation instrument.

We used the *Plataforma Lattes do Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico* (CNPq) (Lattes Platform of the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development) developed by Leite et al.<sup>15</sup> This instrument has the domains: objective (purpose, goals, purposes); structure/presentation (organization, structure, coherence, and sufficiency); and relevance (significance, impact, motivation, and interest). Each domain has statements that should be scored as follows by the raters: 0 I disagree; 1 I partially agree; and 2 I totally agree. The Content Validity Index (CVI) was calculated considering the responses with a value of 1 and 2 in relation to the total responses, and the instrument was considered approved if the CVI reached 0-80.<sup>6</sup>

After validating the storyboards, the videos were produced using the Wondershare Filmora® application. These videos were recorded at home, using an Apple® cell phone camera, model Iphone 11, with IOS operational system and 128GB capacity.

Each recording began with the speaker (in this case the researcher), who explained the objective of the program and the content of the video, besides introducing the characters who would conduct the content, in this case José (playing the role of nutritionist) and Maria (representing the teenager with DS). The finalization was done by the same speaker, who summarized the approach of the video and announced the content of the next one. In the opening and ending, a background music was made available in the application itself was used.

Regarding the length of the videos, there is no single guideline as to ideal length of time for health literacy educational videos. One study states that there is a greater acceptance by the public when the videos do not exceed five minutes.<sup>16</sup> However, given the lack of consensus on this aspect, we tried to keep the videos short, but at the same time taking care is not the segment of the excessive content, which could make understanding difficult. Thus, the time obtained varied from four minutes and 26 seconds to eight minutes and 46 seconds, depending on the video.

The strategy used to validate the videos produced by the target audience followed the proposal of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services,<sup>17</sup> being carried out through individual interviews with the 13 adolescents with DS who agreed to participate in the study. It is noteworthy that, during the research, 17 were in follow-up, but four refused to participate in the study.

The adolescents and their guardians came to APAE, on a previously scheduled day, and watched the videos in a room reserved for this purpose. The videos were evaluated by means of an assistive technology assessment tool,<sup>18</sup> which had 14 questions, distributed in the following domains: interactivity; objectives; relevance and effectiveness; and clarity. Each topic could be scored 0 (inadequate), 1 (partially adequate) or 2 (adequate).

Immediately after watching, each video was evaluated by the teenagers. For approval, the material should receive a score at least 1 in all topics evaluated by at least 70% of the adolescents.<sup>19</sup>

The study was approved by the Ethics Committee on Human Research of the academic institution coordinating the study, under the number 4,537,603 and CAAE 69459317.0.0000.5534.

## Results

The expert judges who participated in the analysis were all female, worked in Collective Health or Public Health, and most had a degree in Nutrition and a post-doctoral degree, according to the data in Table 1.

From the analysis of the storyboards by the judges, the CVI of each storyboard, according to the topics of each domain present in the instrument used, was composed of high values, indicating approval of the storyboards built in all criteria evaluated, according to Table 2. It is worth mentioning that Figure 1 presents a cutout of the storyboard 05 as an example of the materials developed.

In relation to the target audience, it can be observed, according to Table 3, a majority aged 10-12 years old, students from public schools, mainly enrolled from 1st to 9th grade, and with similar distribution considering the sex.

**Table 1**

Expert judges' characterization of who participated in the validation of the storyboards for the construction of educational videos based on health literacy for adolescents with Down Syndrome. Fortaleza, Ceará, Brazil, 2021.

Variable	Expert judges	
	N	%
Sex		
Female	7	100.0
Graduation		
Nutrition	4	57.1
Nursing	2	28.6
Nursing / Administration	1	14.3
Higher Professional qualification		
Master's degree	2	28.6
PhD degree	1	14.3
Post-doctorate	4	57.1
Area of expertise		
Public Health	1	14.3
Collective Health	6	85.7
Scientific production		
Dissertation/thesis	4	57.1
Dissertation /Thesis orientation	4	57.1
Author or co-author of the article	7	100.0

Regarding to the evaluation of the videos by this audience, all the videos were approved, according to data expressed in Table 4. However, regarding to video 3, which addresses the topic "Hygiene care when buying food", the approval percentages were close to the minimum of

**Table 2**

Content Validity Index (CVI) of storyboards addressed to adolescents with Down Syndrome, obtained from the expert judges, according to the topics of each domain present in the instrument used. Fortaleza, Ceará, Brazil, 2021.

Instrument evaluation by items <sup>1</sup>	CVI of each storyboard				
	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5
1. Objectives					
Contemplates proposed theme	1	1	1	1	1
Adequate to the teaching-learning process	1	1	1	1	1
Clarifies doubts about the theme	1	1	1	1	1
Provides reflection on the theme	1	1	1	1	1
Encourages behavioral change	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.71	0.85
2. Structure/Presentation					
Appropriate language for the target audience	0.85	1	1	0.85	1
Language appropriate to the educational material	1	1	1	1	1
Interactive language, allowing active involvement in the educational process	1	1	1	1	1
Correct information	1	1	1	1	1
Objective information	1	1	1	1	1
Clarifying information	1	1	1	1	1
Necessary information	1	1	1	1	1
Logical sequence of ideas	1	1	0.85	1	1
Current topic	1	1	1	1	1
Appropriate text size	1	1	1	1	1
3. Relevance					
Stimulates learning	1	1	1	1	1
Contributes to knowledge in the area	1	1	1	1	1
Generates interest in the topic	0.85	1	1	1	1

Leite et al.<sup>15</sup>; Storyboard 1 (S1): Healthy weight protects me against diseases; Storyboard 2 (S2): How to have a healthy diet; Storyboard (S3): Hygiene care with food -how to buy?; Storyboard (S4): Hygiene care with food -what should I do at home?; Storyboard (S5): My hygiene care before eating

Figure 1

Storyboard 5 cutout (My hygiene care before eating) developed for adolescents with Down Syndrome based on the fundamentals of health literacy. Fortaleza, Ceará, Brazil. 2021.

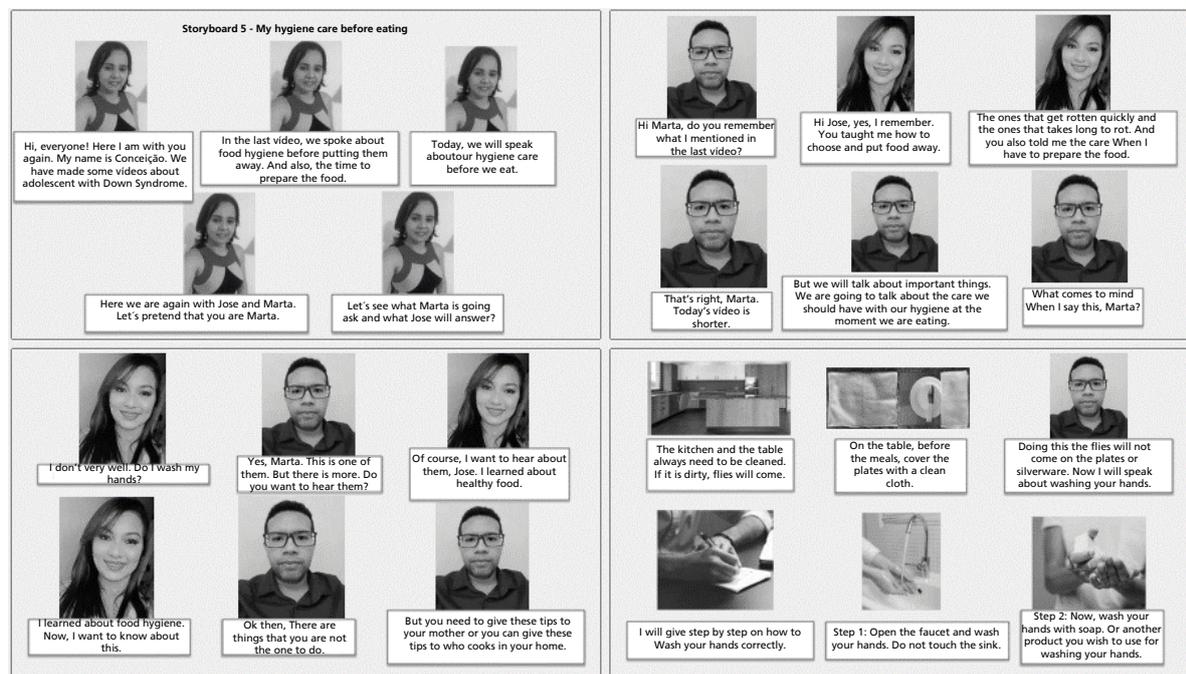


Table 3

Characterization of adolescents with Down Syndrome who evaluated the educational videos based on health literacy. Fortaleza, Ceará, Brazil, 2021.

Variables	Adolescents	
	N	%
Age (years)		
10 – 12	8	61.0
13 – 15	1	8.0
16 – 19	4	31.0
Sex		
Male	7	53.0
Female	6	47.0
School network		
Public	12	92.0
Private	1	8.0
Schooling		
Elementary school – 1 <sup>st</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup>	5	38.0
Elementary / Junior high school– 6 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup>	5	38.0
High school –10 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>	3	24.0

approval by cut-off point on the relevant and effectiveness and clarified topics.

## Discussion

This study was set out to elaborate and validate videos based on the fundamentals of HL as an educational tool for adolescents with DS. All the developed videos were evaluated by experienced judges in the field and by the adolescents themselves and were approved by both,

In recent years, there has been greater concern with the use of assistive technology as a strategy to disseminate

Table 4

Evaluation by the target audience of the educational videos based on health literacy created for adolescents with Down Syndrome, according to the topics of each domain present in the instrument used. Fortaleza, Ceará, Brazil, 2021.

Attributes <sup>1</sup> / videos	V1	V2	V3	V4	V5
Interactivity	83.33%	83.33%	83.33%	83.33%	83.33%
Objectives	83.33%	83.33%	83.33%	83.33%	83.33%
Relevance and effectiveness	83.33%	83.33%	75.00%	83.33%	83.33%
Clarity	83.33%	83.33%	75.00%	83.33%	83.33%
Overall evaluation	83.33%	83.33%	79.17%	83.33%	83.33%

Video1 (V1): Healthy weight protects me from disease; Video 2 (V2): How to have a healthy diet; Video (V3): Hygiene care with food -how to buy?; Video (V4): Hygiene care with food -what should I do at home?; Video (V5): My hygiene care before eating.<sup>26</sup>

information for some specific audiences, such as the elderly and people with disabilities.<sup>18</sup> Videos, in turn, as an educational tool, allow to have access to information, arousing the curiosity of individuals and facilitating the perception of the developed content, helping in health promotion.<sup>20</sup>

In the validation process of these educational materials, the judges' analysis step is essential, because they contribute to the enrichment of the final product and to the improvement of its applicability through the reformulation of information, replacement of terms, and review of illustrations. In the study by Moura *et al.*,<sup>21</sup> who also worked with adolescents, but not with DS, the judges were divided into three categories: judges of content (researchers/teachers in the field of adolescent health,

educational technologies, and/or instrument validation), six technical judges (professionals with experience in the field of adolescent health); and seven judges with professional experience in design.

In the present study, no such categorization occurred, so the judges needed to evaluate several aspects. However, since all of them had a background in health care, especially nutrition, and all are experienced in HL aspects, there was no prejudice in the evaluation either the content or the technique.

The validation made by the expert judges was done by analyzing the storyboards, not the videos itself. They were approved, considering objectives, structure/presentation, and relevance. It is worth mentioning that the fact that the storyboards have a script and image selection based on HL principles also contributes to a better understanding and facilitates the approval of the material, which is also confirmed by the absence of suggestions for changes. This process of video validation through the storyboards was also used by Lima *et al.*<sup>22</sup>

Specifically for the DS audience, there are few proposals for intervention using educational videos, which justifies the absence of comparative data in this discussion. It is possible to find interventions for adults that involve other themes such as physical exercise, but not on the topic of food. If we think of educational actions aimed at adolescents with DS that include educational videos based on the principles of health literacy, there will be a huge gap in the scientific field.<sup>23</sup>

Regarding the development of the videos, one of the concerns of the team was their duration. The lack of consensus on this issue, already mentioned, brought uncertainty about the extent to which they would not be too short or too long, which in the latter case could lead to dispersion of the adolescents' attention. However, the length of the videos was not commented by the adolescents. Although not directed to adolescents with DS, some authors developed an educational video on eye health for 5th grade students with a duration of 16 minutes and 14 seconds and managed to keep the audience attentive.<sup>24</sup>

For adolescents, the importance of service structuring and professional preparation of the health team on adherence to primary care actions is fundamental and is highlighted by Queiroz *et al.*<sup>25</sup> As adolescents, they face a series of transformations and need autonomy to be built and strengthened, even more for DS carriers, health education actions face the challenge of monitoring the health team at school, following the whole process, from assessment, intervention, and evolution.

Therefore, it is important to build challenging pedagogical strategies that stimulate people with DS by learning to play and that facilitates the teaching-learning process, such as the use of playful games or technology

that allow these people to associate the contents with their world.<sup>26</sup>

The use of technologies by children and adolescents in general has increased, and these technologies have helped educators to understand that learning does not occur simply through the transmission of information in a vertical way, but is the result of an internal construction process, from interaction processes with the environment, whether it is a physical, digital, virtual, and/or social link. The subject of learning is no longer considered a passive subject, a receiver of information, but an active subject, who acts, interacts, participates and experiments, appropriating knowledge.<sup>27</sup>

The choice of videos as an educational strategy is pertinent to the condition of the adolescent with DS, because it combines sound and image, motivating them more to concentrate on the contents. To approach health education with adolescents, it is necessary to use devices such as videos that enable the specific teaching and learning process, because they have characteristics inherent to the transition phase between childhood and adulthood.<sup>28</sup>

Finally, the preparation of videos based on health literacy combines guidelines to maximize understanding of the general population and also follows recommendations to arouse the interest of adolescents with DS, because the topics related to HL, such as language, clarity, use of active voice, short and objective sentences and selection of images appropriate to the content and easy to understand, also integrate the recommendations for this type of audience.<sup>29</sup>

Many adolescents with DS may have difficulty in learning that requires the use of conventional pencil and pen, due to somemotor limitations, and many may have difficulty in hearing and seeing, in addition to difficulty in understanding some content.<sup>29</sup> The use of health literacy videos allows adolescents to watch them as many times as necessary, at the appropriate volume for themselves, and eliminating the demand for notes.

However, it is necessary, to reflect more on the aspects associated with the evaluation of educational materials by this target audience. But, the number of articles with this object, theme and audience is scarce, so research is needed, since there is no way to be sure whether the appreciated material is fully useful. Moreover, it is unclear what points adolescents observe, beyond formal instruments, to like and/or understand an educational material or not. It is also not clear what kind of activities can be developed by the teacher, from the different educational videos constructed, to broaden the participation of this adolescent.

In conclusion, the videos developed by the LISA Down Program were approved by expert judges and by the target audience, and can be used as educational strategies

in the routine and activities developed by APAEs that attends adolescents with DS. Their use can also be applied to other spaces that have adolescents with DS as a focus of attention. To facilitate the access and dissemination of these videos, they were made available on the Youtube platform, in the research group's channel.<sup>30</sup>

Therefore, this study highlights the need for further research involving the development of various educational materials aimed for adolescents with DS and the insertion of the field of health literacy in the context of successful communication.

### Authors' contribution

Silva MCA, Martins AMEBL, Galiza DDF, Melo NFR, Pinto MF: writing of the original manuscript. Cabral LA, Sampaio HAC: writing of the original manuscript, review and editing.

The authors approved the final version of the article and declare no conflict of interest.

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