

The Caregiver Report of Early Language Interactions: A Measurement Development Project



Nicolette Grasley-Boy, Ph.D., BCBA
 Juniper Gardens Children's Project,
 University of Kansas

Brenda Salley, Ph.D.
 Department of Pediatrics,
 University of Kansas Medical Center
 Department of Pediatrics,
 Children's Mercy Kansas City

Judith Carta, Ph.D.
 Juniper Gardens Children's Project,
 University of Kansas



Background

- The home language environment is critical for children's early language development
- Long-term adverse outcomes increase disproportionately for children from underserved families¹⁻³
- Interaction promotion strategies can improve cognitive, language, motor, socioemotional, and behavioral outcomes for children^{4,5}
- Measuring caregiver language behavior gains has not received as much focus as child outcomes
- Need for **freely-available**, **easily administered**, and **validated** measurement tool to evaluate effectiveness, monitor progress, and scale interaction interventions

Development of the Measure

- Responding to need to measure quality and quantity of caregiver-child language interaction behaviors
- Caregiver Report of Infant Behavior (CRIB)⁶
- Piloted in language promotion intervention projects (e.g., Talk With Me Baby)
- Expanded to 0-36 months to enable monitoring of language interactions over crucial time period
- Informal feedback from practitioners and researchers

Current Project

- Renamed Caregiver Report of Early Language Interactions (CRELI)
- Expanded expert review and pilot data collection
- Targeted caregivers, practitioners, and researchers
- **Phase 1 – Initial Expert Review**
- Practitioners and caregivers provided item-specific qualitative feedback
- Reworded confusing items
- Removed items not applicable across cultures or family situations

Expert Type	Review	Results
Researchers (n=5)	Content Validity & Discrimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variability within/across developmental groups • Quality discrimination (low vs. high)
Practitioners (n=6)	Understandability & Cultural Relevance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified confusing items • Identified items that may not be relevant across cultures • Reworded directions
Caregivers (n=8)	Understandability & Cultural Relevance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reworded items • Confirmed understandability with end users

Current Project (continued)

- **Phase 2 – Caregiver Review: Edited CRELI**
- 10 caregivers piloted CRELI and provided additional feedback

Characteristic	Results
Child age	0-9 mo. – 60% 10-24 mo. – 20% 25-36 mo. – 20%
Caregiver race	Black/African American – 20% White – 80%
Child race	Black/African American – 20% White – 80%

Question	Results
Length of survey?	About right – 100%
Directions understandable?	Yes – 100%
Any unclear/confusing items?	No – 70% Yes – 30% (provided examples)
Any irrelevant/inaccessible activities/situations?	No – 60% Yes – 40% (did not specify)
Anchors understandable?	Yes – 100%
Anchors gave enough options?	Yes – 100%

Initially I wondered if there should be more item anchors, but as a rater, it actually made it easier to have fewer options. I could better distinguish what I actually did by thinking of whether it was 1-2 times or more than 4 times.

I enjoyed taking this survey, it was very user friendly and not very time consuming for me to complete.

The survey questions were accommodating and easy to comprehend.

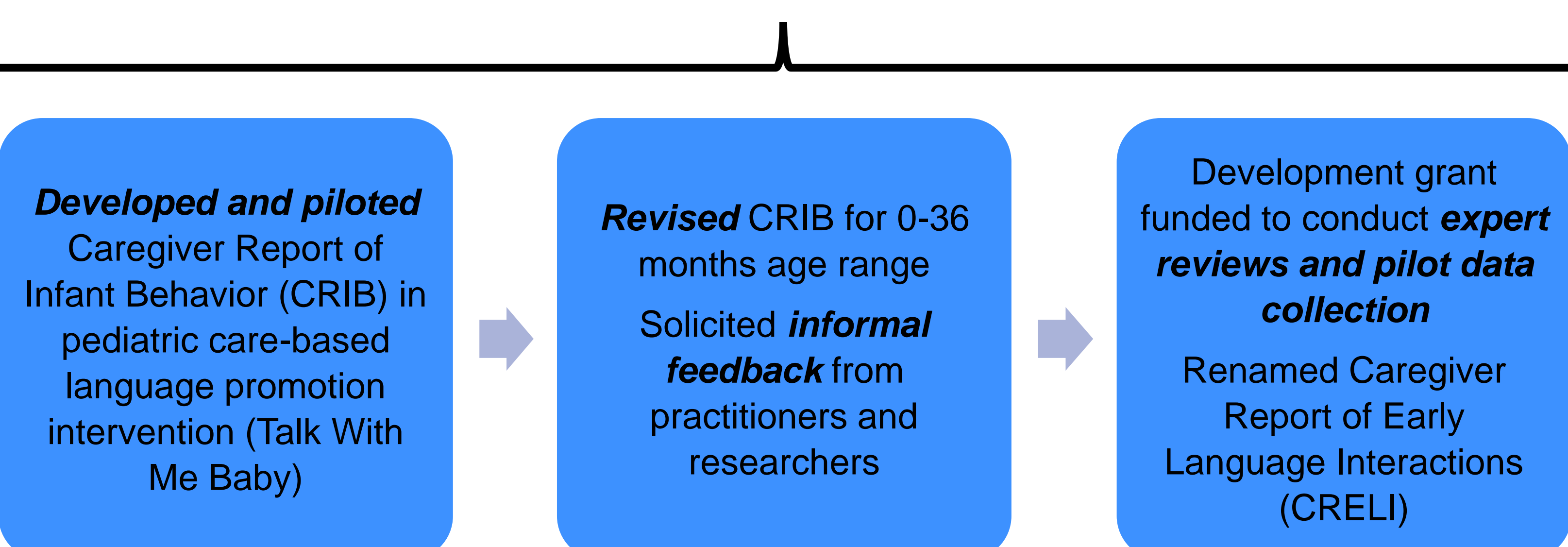
- **Phase 3 – Pilot (under way)**
- Distributing for wide-scale data collection
- Conduct exploratory factor analysis

Next Steps

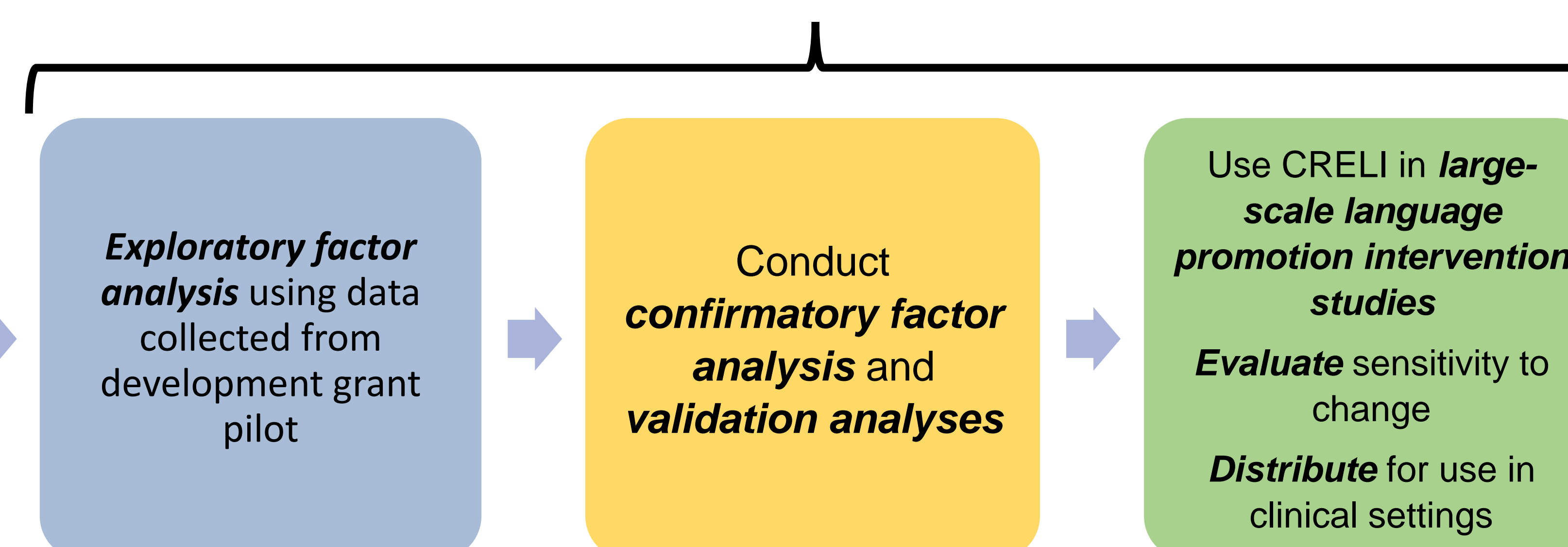
- Confirmatory factor analysis and convergent/divergent validity (*proposal under review*)
- Large-scale intervention studies and sensitivity to change
- Distribution to practitioners
- Translation to other languages



Work to Date



Future Directions



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