Dear families,

As many of you already know, the function of the language in our children, either suffering RING or other aberrations of chromosome 14, is frequently compromised.

Our children can have a good or sufficient comprehension, but they are not able to communicate or they do it with difficulty. I think that many of you are supported by speech therapists and certainly are using alternative languages to the verbal one, as the communication through signs, pictures or the computer.

Sometime, due to the fact that our children are not able to understand basic conversations and they cannot reply and express their requests and needs, they could have some problematic behaviors or vice versa they could retire into themselves.

To understand this aspect and to have the possibility to apply effective therapy, could have a positive impact on the life quality of your child and your family.

The <u>LANGUAGE STUDY PROJECT</u> started in 2009 by the Prof. <u>D'Odorico</u> of Bicocca University of Milan and developed by Dr. Laura Zampini and Dr. Paola Zanchi, psychologists, has as first aim the collection of objective and precise data about the language of our children, through specific tests to do at the Italian children homes.

Before our study project, this symptom was never described in a precise way by the scientific literature. Therefore your doctors, speech therapists and therapists could not find any medical documentation supporting their research, to obtain a better knowledge about this problem and to use the most suitable therapy.

Thanks to this study the first describing article was published in 2011 and the second one in 2012. If you visit our <u>web site</u>, you can find a lot of useful information.

Starting from this year we would like to enlarge the record of cases of our children, therefore we ask to all the families all over the world to help us by collecting further details by filling the form translated in Italian, English, French, German and Spanish that you can find by clicking on this link.

Dr. Laura Zampini, senior psychologist of this project, makes part of the families group RING14 on Facebook; so if you want you can contact her directly.

The annual cost of this project is nearly 10.000 € = 13,346 \$

THEREFORE I ASK YOU TO FILL THE QUESTIONNAIRE THAT YOU WILL FIND AT ABOVE MENTIOND LINK, POSSIBLY WITHIN THE END OF MAY 2013.

https://it.surveymonkey.com/s/Ring14 English

THE QUESTIONNAIRE HAS 37 VERY SIMPLE QUESTIONS THAT YOU CAN FILL IN ABOUT 15 MINUTES.

PLEASE NOTE THAT YOUR COLLABORATION IS ESSENTIAL TO ALLOW OUR RESEARCHERS TO BE ABLE TO COLLECT CONCRETE DATA!

I always remain at your disposal for any query or suggestion you may have and I send you my kindest regards.

Stefania Azzali

RING14 President