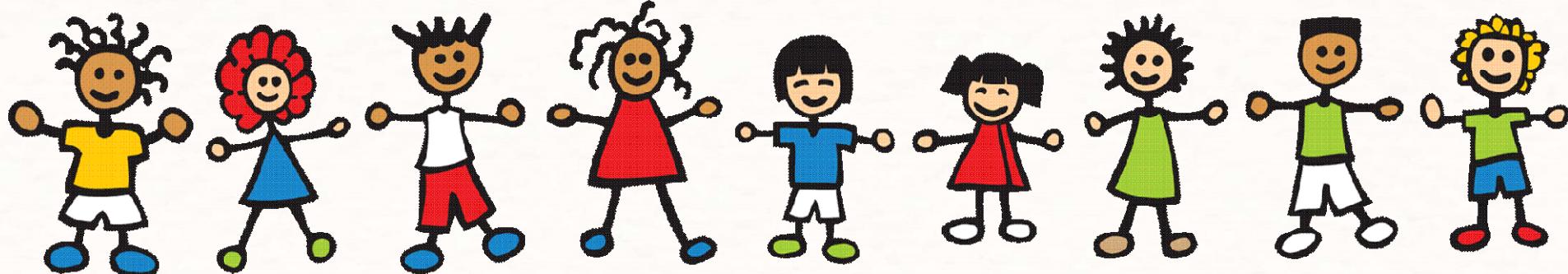


# **Complex place name awareness, mental mapping, and place name competence survey among pre-school children**

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# Introduction

- Name model

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- Little research on children's name-awareness and name competence

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  - Reszegi 2016: the beginning of the acquisition of place names



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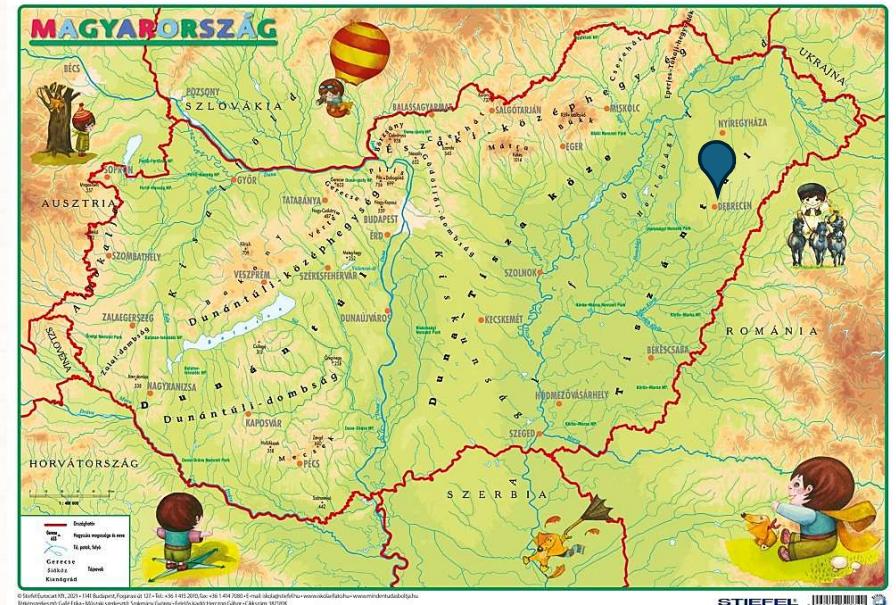
- Name model
- Little research on children's name-awareness and name competence
  - Reszegi 2016: the beginning of the acquisition of place names
  - ? Preschool years

# Introduction

- The aim of the paper:
  - providing a complex method to comprehensively characterize children's knowledge on place names
  - demonstrating how it can be used

# Participants and circumstances of the survey

- 6-7-year-old pre-school children (5 girls, 5 boys)
- Debrecen, June 2022



# Methods

- 4 parts
  1. Spatial and toponymic knowledge
  2. Mental mapping
  3. Toponym competence
  4. Fictitious names

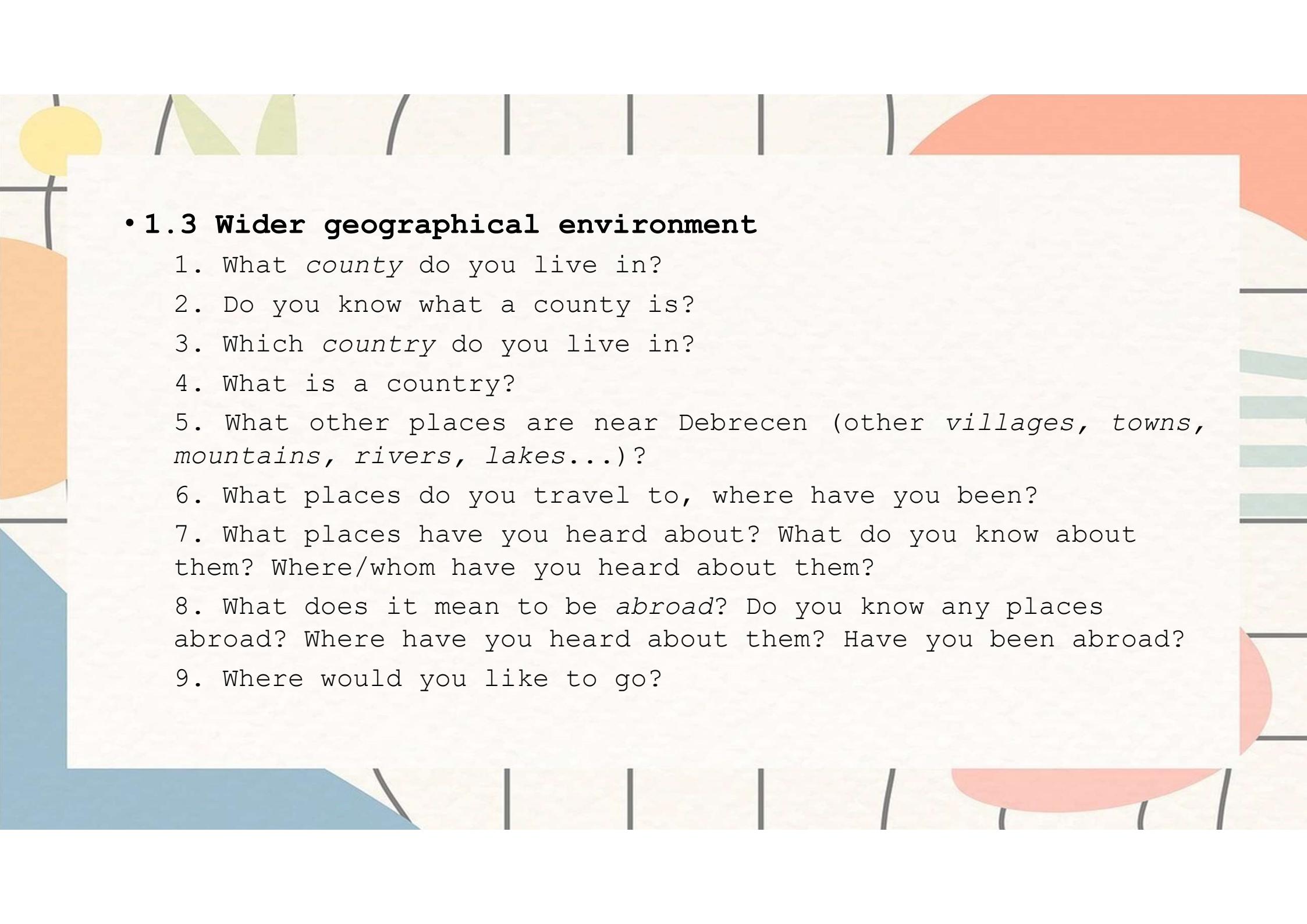
## **1. Semi-structured interview on micro-, meso- and macrospatial knowledge**

### **• 1.1. Own municipality**

1. Where do you live? (If a stranger asked you where you lived, how would you answer?) Is your place of residence a village or a town?
2. What is a village and what is a town?
3. What street do you live on, what is your address?
4. How do you get to the kindergarten from your house?
5. What do you like most about Debrecen?
6. What is the most beautiful place where you live?
7. Where do your grandparents live? Tell me how you get to your grandparents' house.
8. Tell me how you get to a place near you.
9. Where is the town name plate?
10. Have you ever named a place or someone?

- **1.2. Do you know these names?**

- *Pallag, Józsa, Nagyerdő, Hortobágy, Tócó-patak, Békás-tó, Debreceni Egyetem, Nagytemplom, Vojtina, Református Kollégium, Nagyerdei Stadion, Víztorony, Klinika, Aranybika, Jubileumi játszótér ~ Ötholdas Pagony játszótér ~ Sziget-Kék játszótér, Debreceni Állatkert, Botanikus kert, Aquaticum, Nagyállomás, Fórum, Debrecen Pláza, Decathlon, Interspar, Vénkert, Újkert, Piac utca, Csapó utca, Szent Anna utca, Péterfia utca, Egyetem sugárút, Egyetem tér, Mester utca, Füredi út, Kossuth utca*

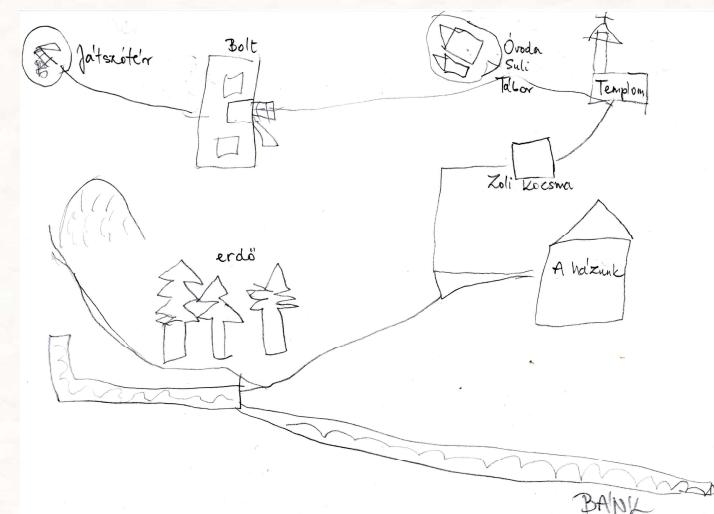


### • 1.3 Wider geographical environment

1. What *county* do you live in?
2. Do you know what a *county* is?
3. Which *country* do you live in?
4. What is a *country*?
5. What other places are near Debrecen (*other villages, towns, mountains, rivers, lakes...*)?
6. What places do you travel to, where have you been?
7. What places have you heard about? What do you know about them? Where/whom have you heard about them?
8. What does it mean to be *abroad*? Do you know any places abroad? Where have you heard about them? Have you been abroad?
9. Where would you like to go?

## 2. Mental mapping

- Drawing combined with interview
  1. Tell me what you are drawing and tell me their names as well if you can!
  2. What do you know about these places?



### 3. Place name competence

#### • 3.1. Word association task

1. List as many places as possible with their names in 2 minutes. (They can be different places: city, country, lake, river, mountain, street, etc.).
  - Names of major cities (*Budapest, Debrecen, Győr, Nyíregyháza, Eger, Miskolc*),
  - other towns (*Radvány, Nánás*)
  - streets (*Egyetem Avenue, Sinay Miklós Street, Arany János Street, Dózsa György Street, Mester Street*)
  - rivers (*Tisza, Danube*)
  - continents (*America, Africa, Asia*)
2. List street names.
3. List mountain names. (*Tatras, Etna, Kékes*)
4. Which of these names are known by every Hungarian person? Why do you think so? List more names like that.

### • 3.2. Name-giving

1. List what you can see in the picture.
2. How would you name the hill?
3. How would you name the settlement next to it?
4. Create a name for each part of the hill.



Szántó

From a distance, the mountain looks blue from the sloe bushes on it. The <sup>2021</sup> slope bushes grow on the right side of the mountain (1), where many foxes live, and the slide is therefore full of foxholes. At the top of the mountain there is a beech forest (2), in the middle of which there is a lawn (3), deer graze on it. There is a huge pear tree (4) in the forest, on which - according to folklore - a wolf was once stuck. On the warm, sunny left side of the mountain (5) originates a small mountain stream (6), which is very rich in trout. The banks of the stream are lined with willow trees, and a wooden bridge (7) leads from one bank to the other. A well (8) was built at the source of the stream (9), in which - according to folklore - bells were hidden from the Turks. Next to the stream is a rock (10) where hawks roost. On the top of the hill (11) you can see the ruins of a former castle. At the foot of the mountain there is a dry stream valley (12) next to

	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
<b>falu</b>	Pipacs	Hortobágyi falu	Völgy	Győrfalu	Kismacs	Kisváros	-	Szoboszlai falu	Miskolc
<b>hegy</b>	Napocska	Portugál-hegy	Mező	Kökény-hegy	Nagytemplomi domb	-	Domb	Király-hegy	Debrecen
<b>jobb oldal</b>	Virágok	Angol	Rókalyukak	Őzike-hegy	-	Róka-tanya	Növényutca	Sövény	Bükkös
<b>hegytető</b>	Felhő	Hegyfás	Vár	Bükk-vár	Templomi-hegy	Őzikeház	Madár-tanya	Hegytető	-
<b>tisztás</b>	Patak	Őzike-erdő	Őz-domb	Őz-legelő	Templomi-tisztás	Őzike	Legelő	Fű-tisztás	Őzikéstisztás
<b>körtefa</b>	Falevél	Körtészfa	Kis-kert	Farkas-fa	Körtefa	Barát	Farkas-fa	Körte	Körtő
<b>bal oldal</b>	Őzike	Nyárfürdő	Vízesés	Patak-oldal	Patak	Szép domboldal	Folyóutca	Süss nap	Patakos
<b>patak</b>	Halas-patak	Patak vize	Tisza	Pisztráng-tó	Hídi-patak	halas-tanya	Fűzfa-folyó	Folyó	Folyó
<b>híd</b>	Fahíd	Fás-híd	Barna-híd	Harang-híd	Fahíd	Kis-híd	Kossuth-híd	Király-híd	Híd
<b>forrás</b>	Napocska	Forrás-víz	Forrás	Fa-forrás	Forrás	Szép kis folyó	A kút vize	Forrás-víz	Lyuk
<b>kút</b>	Kutas	Patak-folyó	Sötét-kút, Mély-kút	Róka-kút	Harangosi-kút	Kút	Harangrejtő-kút	Török-kút	Kutas-harang
<b>szikla</b>	Kavics	Solymoknak a királya	Kőszikla	Sólyom-szikla	Sólyom-perem	Sólyom-tanya	Sólyom-tanya	Sziklás	Sziklás
<b>hegycsúcs</b>	Váracska	Magyar-vár	Vár-hegycsúcs	Patak-csúcs	Városi domb	Rom	Erdő-vár	Csúcs	Váras
<b>patakvölgy</b>	Cseresznye	Kőszikla	Vadalmafa-rét	Alma-folyó	Kiszáradti-patakvölgy	Kiszáradt patak	Vadalma-völgy	Völgy	Patakos

- compound structure with a specific term + generic part describing the characteristics of the places (49 names)
  - *Róka-kút* 'Fox-well', *Városi-domb* 'City-hill', *Harang-híd* 'Bell-bridge', *Halas-patak* 'Fish-pond', *Bükk-vár* 'Beech-castle', *Sólyom-szikla* 'Hawk-rock', *Vadalmafa-völgy* 'Apple tree-valley'
- forms without a geographical common noun
  - *Szíklás* 'Rocky', *Patakos* 'brooky', *Váras* 'with a castle', *Bükkös* 'beechy'
- names are identical with geographical common nouns
  - *Domb* 'hill', *Hegytető* 'mountain top', *Legelő* 'pasture', *Folyó* 'river', *Forrás* 'spring', *Híd* 'bridge', *Völgy* 'valley', *Csúcs* 'Peak'
- 'fantasy' names
  - *Napocska* 'sun', *Angol* 'English', *Lyuk* 'Hole', *Pipacs* 'Poppy', *Portugál-hegy* 'Portuguese Mountain'
- title-like or long descriptive structures
  - *Solymoknak a királya* 'the King of Hawks', *Süss nap* 'shine sun', *Szép kis folyó* 'Pretty Little River', *A kút vize* 'the water of the well'

- **3.3. „Nameness”**

1. Which of the following names can be a place name and which cannot?

Rákóczi út (street), Miskolc (city), Kecskés foltja (land),  
Dallasz, Akli, Faragó híd, Eszenyi, Berettyóújfalu, Nagy-  
Paradicsom, Nevetlenfalu, Zsófi-kút, Virág út, Hadházi Péter-  
féle-tanya, Daruszentmiklós, Mérges-domb, Mátra, Kraszna, Bérc,  
Bika-erdő, Püspökladány, Szelidi-tó, Hunyadi János utca,  
Mogyeri híd, Horgas, Ér

2. Why?

	Place name	Not place name
Rákóczi út – út	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>
Miskolc – település	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>
Kecskés foltja – földterület	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>
Dallasz – tanya	5	4
Akli – település	2	7
Faragó híd – híd	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>
Eszenyi – tanya, földterület, erdő	5	4
Berettyóújfalu – település	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>
Nagy-Paradicsom – kertség	6	3
Nevetlensfalu – település	3	6
Zsófí-kút – kút	6	3
Virág út – út	7	2
Hadházy Péter-féle-tanya – tanya	5	4
Daruszentmiklós – település	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>
Mérges-domb – domb	5	4
Mátra – hegység	7	2
Kraszna – folyó	7	2
Bérc – kiemelkedés	4	5
Bika-erdő – erdő	6	3
Püspökladány – település	7	2
Szelidi-tó – tó	7	2
Hunyadi János utca	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>
Megyeri híd – híd	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>
Horgas – vízforrás	7	2
Ér – vízfolyás	5	4

- Item frequency effect
- Limited type frequency effect

## 4. Fictitious names

1. What is your favorite tale or cartoon? What cartoons do you like to watch, what tales or stories do your parents read to you?
  2. What places do you remember from these stories? Do you remember their names?
  3. How good do you think the names are?
  4. Could they be names of places in Debrecen? Why?
- 
- Children distinguish between fictitious and real place names

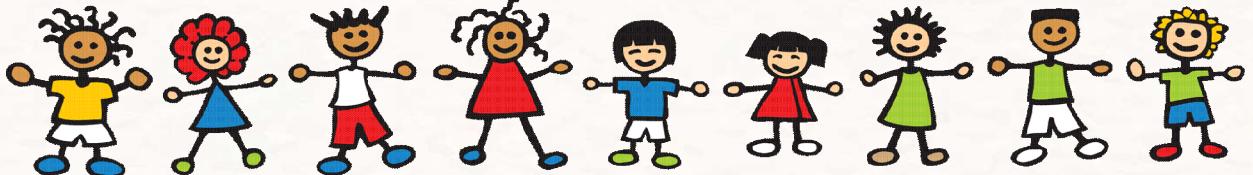
# Conclusions

- during preschool years: important changes in progress
- basic geographical concepts
- knowledge of between 28 and 44 place names of the municipality
- the very schematic place name representations become more elaborated
- route descriptions
- very limited name-giving experience
- the dominance of non-transparent names

# Conclusions

- the methodology can be used successfully
  - provides a comprehensive view of children's spatial knowledge and place name awareness
- preliminary conclusions
- subsequent research is needed

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Thank you for your attention.

