

Theraplay to Enhance Social Communication in Adolescent with Level I Autism Spectrum Disorder

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Abstract

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a complex neurodevelopmental disorder marked with disorder in social behavior language, communication skill and repetitive movement and interest. Individuals with ASD experience language and communication difficulties, even though there are some difference in terms of language skills in each individual. Some might be non-verbal, some might have a sound language skill but only have deficits in pragmatic area or language usage in social context. Social communication is communication involves joint attention, shared attention, shared emotion experience with other's experience in a social interaction. The research design single-subject design with purposive sampling method. ASD was diagnosed with *Childhood Autism Rating Scale (CARS)*, social communication differences was measured with The Yale in vivo Pragmatic Rating Scale (YPRS) which measured 3 aspects : pragmatic language, speech and paralinguistic & other communication behavior as well as according to Theraplay technique, Marschack Interaction Method (MIM) was integrated in this research which measured the quality of parents-subject interaction 4 dimensions which are structure, engagement, nurture and challenge. The result shows that there is a social communication enhancement in the subject. Changes in the subject is also seen in the MIM results through subject's ability to communicate with mother. Social communication needs to be maintain and develop in daily basis thus parents are recommended to continue the Theraplay activities at home.

Key Words : Theraplay, Autism, ASD, Social communication