

The Application of Theraplay to Increase Social Initiation in Middle Childhood with Autism Spectrum Disorder

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Abstract

The purpose of this research is to see the result of theraplay application in increasing social initiation in middle childhood with autism spectrum disorder. There are two variables in this research. Theraplay as an independent variable and social initiation as a dependent variable. Theraplay is a form of structured play therapy designed to strengthen the attachment between children and other person. Social initiation is behavior both verbal and non verbal of a child approaching peers or others which can be formed through a better attachment. This research is using single case design. The sampling technique is the purposive sampling where sample were selected based on the criteria and objectives of the research. The assesment tool that is used in this research is ASSP (Autism Social Skills Profile) which designed to measure six aspects of social skills that includes social initiation (Bellini, 2006) and MIM (Marschak Interaction Method) which designed to measure attachment between parents and child (Munns, 2000). The result of this research shows that the application of theraplay can increase social initiation, such as invites peers or others to join in activities, joins in activities, requests assistance from others, and initiates greetings with others.

Keywords: Theraplay, Attachment, Social Initiation, ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder), ASSP (Autism Social Skills Profile).