

## ABSTRACT

**Elita Kirana (717161004) The Effect of DIR *Floortime* on children with *Autism Spectrum Disorder* to Improve Social Skills (Prof. Ediasri Toto Atmodiwirjo & Debora Basaria, M.Psi., Faculty of Psychology, Tarumanagara University, i-xiv, 1-135 pages, P1-P7, L1-L220)**

Children with autism have deficit characteristics in social communication and social interaction, as well as restricted and repetitive patterns of behavior, and limited interests or activities (APA, 2013). The purpose of this research is to improve the social skills of children with autism. There are several methods that can be applied to children with autism to improve their social skills. One of them is the DIR Floortime method. DIR Floortime aims to help children reach the stage of their emotional development through play activities. This type of research is a clinical case study, involving 2 boys aged 10 years old that are diagnosed with a mild level of autism. The instruments used in this study are Autism Social Skills Profile (Bellini & Hopf, 2007) and Functional Emotional Assessment Scale (Greenspan & deGangi, 2000). This research involves 20 sessions, conducted in May 2018, consisting of 10 sensory sessions and 10 symbolic sessions. The results of this research show a significant improvement in emotional capacities, but not significant in social skills in both participants. Qualitatively, both subject demonstrates an improvement on social skills in their daily behavior after they had participated in the intervention.

**Keywords:** *autism spectrum disorder, middle childhood, DIR Floortime, social skill*