

Children and autism

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Abstract

Introduction. The development of children with autism involves the sphere of their activities and interests. They often have a limited range of activities and interests, express repeated behavior as well as various counteractions in the premises and everyday surroundings. Children with autism do not play the same way children with development normal. Their play lack imagination, they play by reproducing what they have seen or what they remember and do not add to their play parts from themselves, from their feelings and interpretation. Many children with autism express preferences for a definite object, a toy, a color, a certain shape, etc. **Methodology** The qualitative method was used in the study. Semi-structured interview with open-ended questions was the instrument for data collection. Data collections were made possible by interviewing of parents (10 parents) of children with ASD who were outpatients and inpatients at Centre Regional for Growth, Development and Rehabilitation Berat city. **Results.** Through data analyses it came out that: -- Children with autism are limited in their activities, they play by copying and without imagination, show strong memory for what they want and express interest for certain definite objects, for toys musical, television, etc. -- Children with autism are not focused in their daily activities and show behavior and actions that are stereotype and repetitive as for movement frequent of the hands, rotation of objects, etc. **Conclusion.** The development of children with autism involves the sphere of their activities and interests by limiting them.

Key words: Children, autism, activities, interests.

Introduction

Development of children with autism affects the scope of activities and interests. They often have a limited range of activities and interests, repetitive behaviors, and different responses to the environment and daily circumstances (Aarons & Gittens, 1999). Children with autism do not play in a way that kids play with their normal development. Half lack imagination, they play reproducing those who have seen or remember, and do not add to gaming part of myself, feelings, emotions and interpretations (Powers, 2000).

Sensory or motor game is the earliest game of autistic children. It has to do with actions or physical manipulation of the environment that surrounds them. In its earliest stage, these children put everything in their mouths. Many children with autism exhibit a preference for a particular item, a toy, a color, a particular shape, etc. These items or items may be sensory characteristics such that these children may find very attractive. They are regarded by them as something that can be supported in their activity (Trevarthen & Aitken, 1996)

Another characteristic of children with autism who exhibit difficulty in establishing relationships with others. Child with autism show a lack of interest to others. He lives in his world and words, mimics, behaviors and emotions do not adapt to the situation. Sometimes, the child allows himself to be guided by an adult, without taking part in activities themselves opposing them. Also, children with autism do not feel the need for social reinforcement, and have little or no need for others liked you. Children with autism do not understand the types of communications that are placed between the children when they play and thus their efforts to game (Harris & Glasberg, 2003).

Often the lack of people close or peer is a distinctive sign that something is not good. They do not see other children as subjects interesting and have difficulty in considering someone as a friend or close friend (Jordan & Powell, 1995).

Children with autism find it difficult to establish a close distance with others. They define as so threatening. There are children who want friends, they want to stay with other children and trying to interact with them. In these cases, they interact as much younger

children, using simplified versions of social rules. Children with autism have characteristic ways of expressing physical affection to others (Harris & Glasberg, 2003).

They can be very affectionate physically, but in ways that can be very different from other children. They want to hug just when you want and it lasts much they want to extend. Also, can exhibit unusual and express emotions such as laughing or crying for no reason. Studies have found that children with autism are more likely to express negative emotions compared to children with normal development (Notbohm, 2005).

In kindergarten, school and social interactions, children with autism can be accused of failing to attention and interest you have to pay something. They often look they do not hear, can ignore clear noises and large that may disturb other children and, on the other hand can hear well enough petty and small noise. Others are more attentive to visual stimuli showing particular interest to them (Siegel, 2009).

Language difficulties cause lack of interest in verbal exchange with other persons. Also, they have difficulty in understanding the information and its interpretation. Studies have shown that about 50% of them do not develop a functional language and communication in their lives, or say words and sounds that only understood by their families⁵. Establish eye contact with them is very difficult and often not realized. The research conducted shows that in our country studies on this subject are lacking. Thus, this study tries to fill this space and give you answers to some of the issues raised in connection with the activities and interests of children with autism (Notbohm, 2005).

Methodology

The aim of this study was the identification of the activities and interests of children with autism (6-9 years).The method used for this study was that quality. For data collection using semi-structured interviews with questions open-ended. The selection of the method and instrument for data collection was carried out in view of the purpose and objectives of the study.

Data for this study were collected through the process of interviewing 10 parents of children with autism (6-9 years), who attended daily services and staying in Regional Development and Rehabilitation Centre for Children, Berat city. Their selection in this interview was conducted on the basis of representation criteria and age of the child.

Interview questions were developed based on the literature of the field, and in view of the purpose and objectives of the study. Information groupings of the study, interviews consisted of three sections, which included the variables that were interested. Use descriptive interview questions was very important element of encouraging qualitative data collection. Also, you create more space things participants in their responses, questions have character builder and reflective. The process of interviewing was conducted face to face and each lasted about an hour. During the interview participants were encouraged to speak freely and openly. Interviews were held note to be analyzed later. Interviews with participants took place in a convenient and comfortable environment near Berat R.D.C. Consideration of ethical issues and the preservation of the identity of the participants of their children has been a priority of the study. The following table recognizes the data of children with autism included in the study. The process of collecting and processing data of the study was conducted in the period 15/02/2018 to 15/05/2018.

Table 1. Data of children taken in study.

	Age of child	Sex	Location
1	8 years	Male	Berat
2	7.5 years	Male	Lushnje
3	7 years	Female	Kuçovë
4	6.5 years	Male	Skrapar
5	7 years	Male	Vlorë
6	7 years	Female	Berat
7	6.5 years	Female	Përmet
8	6 years	Male	Berat
9	9 years	Male	Fier
10	8 years	Male	Elbasan

Results

The process of analysis that the interviews gave us a clear picture about the activities and interests of children with autism. Criteria for the validity of these results were a very important element study. Value consisted results in a cooperative relationship between the data and interview method.

To support the interpretation of the data are given and examples of transcripts of interviews. Although individual experiences of children involved in the study were unique, had many things in common between them. Descriptions of parents constitute an important information to analyze themes, similarities and differences between children.

The analysis of data obtained through the process of interviewing 10 parents of children with autism (6-9 years), who attended daily services and staying in the Regional Development Centre and Children's Rehabilitation, Berat, we found that:

1. Children with autism are limited in their activities and interests. Their activity has mainly to do with a more limited range of activities within the premises of the house than outside. People often house activities are of interest to them. The game has no imagination and concentration is low. They play reproducing those who have seen or used, without adding to the game part of myself. Also, as parents, children show an interest rate for one or more items and specialty items such as musical toys, television, or round objects items etc., which consume a significant portion of the time, dealing with them.

A distinctive feature of these is a strong reminder for what they want to remember, such as the location of toys, home facilities, roads, etc. Generally, parents say that their children have an admirable reminder of what they have an interest.

Here says the mother of a child 7.5 years:

“It is activity is limited to a few things. My child carries games just like the same action. I like most music and sound toys, watch TV, especially when the songs. Fixing water bottle at all, not separating by hand”.

Another parent said:

“Toys my child wants to have as property and not to play. There are fun too TV, music, musical toys. Fastening p.sh clothes one wants to wear a pair of socks consecutive week, will not change with the other”

2. The survey data showed that in their daily activities children with autism are oblivious. According to the parents, their concentration takes very little. Also, they do not prove to be alert to situations or different circumstances. In most cases, children with autism find it difficult to understand and therefore not carry out the instructions of the parents. Another characteristic of children with autism was the manifestation of behaviors and stereotyped repetitive actions such as frequent hand movement, rotation of objects, rotational movement in the environment, stand in front of the mirror, endless movement, cry, when they see people dancing want etc.

Here's how a 6-year-old boy's father says on this issue:

“My son is not very attentive. Loves to swing things, moving his hands up and down, spinning on the ground for some time”.

As another parent said his child:

“It was oblivious, move the hands, endless walks around, not sitting, crying. Neither receives nor enforce orders”

3. With regard to activities and social interests, the data showed that children with autism do not like to get involved and active in relation to children and other people. They show no interest in verbal communication. Also, they prefer not to draw and play with other children peers, and when they do, are included only for a very short moment. According to the parents, there are times when others they can display and signs affiliation or aggressiveness example fondle or push them

Another feature of these is the isolation or the desire to stay alone at home, and so they often do. Meanwhile, you can prefer and exits or external environments walks.

Here's how a mother responds to this issue:

“With the other children not to play approaching. I look for a short moment and then leave. It is isolated, closed in itself. When other kids come home fled to another room without realizing it”

Another parent says:

“Play few peers and then sit alone. There is a bad thing that pushes other children, and therefore they are trying to remove. Five minutes does not sit in one place, focus on just two seconds’.

Discussion

Discussion of the results of the study takes into account many factors. It is important to understand that each child has his individuality and that every child is different. Of course, the differences between them are not only the individual but also the result of the work of parents, children access to therapies for socialization, environment, culture, resources etc. Influence of these factors affects a better sense of the issues related to the activities and interests of children with autism.

The above results reveal that studies in this area suggest that the development of children with autism affects the scope of activities and interests by restricting it.

Children with autism do not interact and play the way they can play children with normal development. Their game lacks imagination, they play reproducing those who have seen or remember, and do not add to the gaming part of itself, feelings, emotions and interpretations.

Also, children with autism show an interest rate for one or more items and specialty items such as musical toys, television, or round objects etc. items. Strong memory for what they want, such as the location of toys, home facilities, roads, etc., is another distinctive feature.

Results also comply with the attention and concentration, emphasizing the lack of them. The survey data confirmed a characteristic of children with autism as well as the emergence of behaviors and stereotyped repetitive actions such as frequent hand movement, rotation of objects, rotational movement in the environment, stand in front of the mirror, movement without end, weeping, dancing when they see people who love etc..

In terms of social interests and activities, the results are in line with what the literature emphasizes that children with autism do not like to get involved and active in the relationship and activities with other children, prefer not to play with them, and show no interest in communication verbal. Isolation or the desire to stay alone was another characteristic.

At the conclusion of this discussion, we can say that this study confirmed and another time, but in a new context, and Albanian, those scientific studies in this field point out, that the development of children with autism affects the scope of activities and interests restricting it.

Conclusion

At the conclusion of this study we can say that:

Children with autism are limited in their activities and interests. They play by play and unimaginative, show strong memory for what they want, and show interest for certain items or special items such as musical toys, television, etc.;

In their daily activities children with autism are inattentive and behaviors and stereotyped repetitive actions such as frequent hand movement, rotation of objects, etc.

Children with autism do not like to get involved and active in relationship with other children. In many cases they want to stand alone.

This study is only a modest attempt to answer the issues raised in connection with the activities and interests of children with autism, so it is necessary to be followed by studies other. For this is necessary work, dedication and greater collaboration of professionals who carry out their activity in this field.

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