

# Improving Executive Functioning in Children with ADHD: Training Executive Functions within the Context of a Computer Game.

No registrations found.

|                              |                |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Ethical review</b>        | Not applicable |
| <b>Status</b>                | Pending        |
| <b>Health condition type</b> | -              |
| <b>Study type</b>            | Interventional |

## Summary

### ID

NL-OMON21912

### Source

NTR

### Brief title

EF Training

### Health condition

ADHD, Executive functioning, EF, Training, treatment, game

## Sponsors and support

**Primary sponsor:** University of Amsterdam

**Source(s) of monetary or material Support:** University of Amsterdam

## Intervention

## Outcome measures

### Primary outcome

The effect of the interventions will be measured in five different domains:

1. EF performance and behavior;
2. ADHD characteristics;
3. Complex reasoning;
4. General problem behavior;
5. Motivation.

Measured immediately after training.

### **Secondary outcome**

The effect of the interventions will be measured in five different domains:

1. EF performance and behavior;
2. ADHD characteristics;
3. Complex reasoning;
4. General problem behavior;
5. Motivation.

Measured at 3 months follow-up.

## **Study description**

### **Background summary**

In this study we examine the effects of a EF training on the EF performance and ADHD behavior of children with ADHD.

The study is performed in a Dutch sample. It has been approved by the ethical commission of the department of psychology of the University of Amsterdam.

### **Study objective**

An adaptive EF training will improve EF performance and behavior, complex reasoning, ADHD

characteristics, general problem behavior and motivation compared to a non-adaptive training condition.

## **Study design**

3 timepoints of measurement:

T1: Pre training testing (2-3 weeks before training);

T2: Post training testing (1 week after training);

T3: Follow-up testing (3 months after training).

Testing at T1-3 will cover five different domains:

1. EF performance and behavior: Visuospatial and verbal WM (CBTT and digit span backwards), response inhibition (Stop-Task and STROOP), set-shifting (TRAIL MAKING TASK), visuospatial and verbal short term memory (CBTT and digit span forward), and an EF behavior questionnaire (the BRIEF);
2. Complex reasoning (RAVEN);
3. ADHD characteristics (DBDRS);
4. General problem behavior (HSQ);
5. Motivation (BIS/BAS).

## **Intervention**

3 training groups:

1. A adaptive EF training (3 types of EF are trained with an adaptive difficulty level);
2. A partial adaptive EF training (3 types of EF training tasks are presented; only 2 types of EF are trained adaptively; one EF is trained non-adaptively and on a low difficulty level);
3. A non-adaptive training (3 types of EF are trained non-adaptively and on a low difficulty level).

In every condition children train 25 sessions for 40 minutes, 4 to 5 days a week.

## Contacts

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## Eligibility criteria

### **Inclusion criteria**

Children aged 8 to 12 years with a diagnosis of ADHD combined-type participate. Children are recruited from outpatient mental-healthcare centers. Children that meet the following criteria are included:

1. A prior DSM-IV-TR (American Psychiatric Association, 2000) diagnosis of ADHD combined-type by a child psychologist or psychiatrist;
2. A score within the clinical problem range (95th to 100th percentile) on the ADHD scales of both the parent and teacher version of the Disruptive Behavior Disorder Rating Scale (DBDRS; Pelham, Gnagy, Greenslade, & Milich, 1992; Dutch translation Oosterlaan, Scheres, Antrop, Roeyers, & Sergeant, 2000);
3. Meeting criteria for ADHD combined-type on the ADHD section of the Diagnostic Interview Schedule for Children for DSM-IV, parent version (DISC-IV; Shaffer, Fisher, Lucas, Dulcan, & Schwab-Stone, 2000). The DISC-IV is a structured diagnostic interview based on the DSM-IV, with adequate psychometric properties;
4. Absence of Conduct Disorder (CD) based on the CD sections of the DISC-IV;

5. Absence of a prior DSM-IV-TR diagnosis of any autism spectrum disorder (ASD) according to a child psychologist or psychiatrist;
6. An IQ score  $\geq 80$  as measured by the short version of the Dutch Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (WISC-III; Kort et al., 2002). Two WISC-III subtests, Vocabulary and Block Design are administered to estimate Full Scale IQ (FSIQ). This composite score has satisfactory reliability ( $r = 0.91$ ) and correlates highly with FSIQ ( $r = 0.86$ ; Sattler, 2001);
7. Absence of any neurological disorder, non-verbal learning disorder (Nigg, 2006), or sensory (color blindness and vision) or motor impairment as stated by the parents;
8. Not taking any medication other than methylphenidate (children have to be able to discontinue medication at least 24 hours before each test session, allowing a complete wash-out; Greenhill, 1998).

## Exclusion criteria

If children do not meet the inclusion criteria they are excluded from the study.

## Study design

### Design

|                     |                               |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Study type:         | Interventional                |
| Intervention model: | Parallel                      |
| Allocation:         | Randomized controlled trial   |
| Masking:            | Double blinded (masking used) |
| Control:            | Active                        |

### Recruitment

|                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| NL                        |             |
| Recruitment status:       | Pending     |
| Start date (anticipated): | 15-04-2011  |
| Enrollment:               | 90          |
| Type:                     | Anticipated |

## Ethics review

Not applicable

Application type:

Not applicable

## Study registrations

### Followed up by the following (possibly more current) registration

No registrations found.

### Other (possibly less up-to-date) registrations in this register

No registrations found.

### In other registers

| Register | ID                                  |
|----------|-------------------------------------|
| NTR-new  | NL2600                              |
| NTR-old  | NTR2728                             |
| Other    | METC UvA : 2011-OP-1526             |
| ISRCTN   | ISRCTN wordt niet meer aangevraagd. |

## Study results

### Summary results

N/A