

To what extent do children with a pervasive developmental disorder experience the desire for social interaction?

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The main purpose of the proposed study is to explore to what extent children suffering from a PDD experience the desire for social interaction. Both the explicit desires for social interaction as well as the presense of automatic approach behaviour...

Ethical review	Approved WMO
Status	Recruiting
Health condition type	Other condition
Study type	Observational non invasive

Summary

ID

NL-OMON31442

Source

ToetsingOnline

Brief title

The need for social interaction in children.

Condition

- Other condition
- Developmental disorders NEC

Synonym

Pervasive developmental disorder. Autism spectrum disorder.

Health condition

Pervasive ontwikkelingsstoornis

Research involving

Human

Sponsors and support

Primary sponsor: Universiteit Maastricht

Source(s) of monetary or material Support: Ministerie van OC&W

Intervention

Keyword: approach-avoidance tendency, desire for social interaction, need for affiliation, pervasive developmental disorder

Outcome measures

Primary outcome

The reactiontimes on the Face Turn AAT will be the primary outcomes.

Secondary outcome

The secondary outcomes are: the explicit desire for social interaction

(assessed by the Wish for Social Interaction Measurement and the Affiliative

Orientation Scale), the level of social activity and social competence

(assessed by the CBCL), perceived social functioning (assessed by the subscale

of the CBSK), the level of social anxiety, adhd and pervasive developmental

symptoms (assessed by the SCARED-71, AVL and CSBQ).

Study description

Background summary

The experience of social support and the feeling of connectedness is essential for the well-being of people. Social interaction is not a matter of course for children with an autism spectrum disorder (or pervasive developmental disorder). Impairments in social interaction are considered to be the core of these disorders. These impairments are expressed by means of impairments in nonverbal behaviours during social interactions, lack of social and emotional reciprocity, decreased social involvement and the failure to develop peer

relationships. These impairments influence both the child and its environment. It is assumed that children with an autism spectrum disorder want to make contact with other, but lack the skills to do so. By this they might get caught in a vicious circle and become lonely. The question whether these children have the desire to make contact remains unanswered so far. Especially, the lack of appropriate assessments seems to play a role. A new research line might offer a solution. There is a growing interest for approach- and avoidance behaviour. The idea is that positive evaluated stimuli elicit an approach tendency, whereas negative evaluated stimuli elicit an avoidance tendency. The response can be assessed with the aid of recently developed implicit computer tasks. In fact, a task has been developed with aim to assess the unconscious desire for contact.

Study objective

The main purpose of the proposed study is to explore to what extent children suffering from a PDD experience the desire for social interaction. Both the explicit desires for social interaction as well as the presence of automatic approach behaviour are of interest. In addition, the relation between the desire to make contact and the level of social impairments, the level of social interaction, the level of perceived social acceptance and loneliness will be explored.

Study design

The study is a combination of a between- and within-subject design. A group of children with an autism spectrum disorder and a group of children without an autism spectrum disorder will be compared. The relation between the desire to make contact and the level of social impairments, the level of social interaction, the level of perceived social acceptance and loneliness will be explored within the groups. The study will be non-invasive and cross-sectional.

Study burden and risks

There are no risks associated with this study. The load for the children is minimal. They will be tested once and this will take about 30 minutes. It is expected that the children will not evaluate the tasks as tiresome. The required information that can be gathered through the parents and the teachers will be gathered through them instead of the children. It will take about 30 minutes for the parents and about 10 minutes for the teachers to complete the questionnaires.

Contacts

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Trial sites

Listed location countries

Netherlands

Eligibility criteria

Age

Adults (18-64 years)

Children (2-11 years)

Elderly (65 years and older)

Inclusion criteria

Children with and without a pervasive developmental disorder as primary diagnosis, aged between 7 and 11 years old.

Exclusion criteria

For children without a pervasive developmental disorder, scores of 68 and above on the CSBQ (autism questionnaire) or known psychiatric diagnosis are exclusion criteria. Further, exclusion criteria for both groups are known mental retardation and when the teacher is not willing to participate.

Study design

Design

Study type:	Observational non invasive
Intervention model:	Other
Allocation:	Non-randomized controlled trial
Masking:	Open (masking not used)
Control:	Active
Primary purpose:	Basic science

Recruitment

NL	
Recruitment status:	Recruiting
Start date (anticipated):	01-12-2008
Enrollment:	320
Type:	Actual

Ethics review

Approved WMO	
Date:	25-03-2008
Application type:	First submission
Review commission:	METC academisch ziekenhuis Maastricht/Universiteit Maastricht, METC azM/UM (Maastricht)

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
CCMO	NL20925.068.07