

Studies

[Features and effects of computer-based games on cognitive impairments in children with autism spectrum disorder: an evidence-based systematic literature review](#)

Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) have different cognitive and intelligence profiles than typical developing individuals. Some of these children need cognitive rehabilitation. This study's main purpose is to provide a systematic review about applying computerized cognitive games for autistic children and to determine the effectiveness of such interventions.

[Intellectually disabled patients' intensive care admission characteristics, weaning from mechanical ventilation, and sedative drug use: a single-center retrospective case-control study](#)

Intellectually disabled (ID) patients present unique therapeutic challenges. We aimed to describe the characteristics of ID patients admitted to a general intensive care unit (ICU).

[Poisoning-related emergency department visits in children with autism spectrum disorder](#)

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a complex neurodevelopmental condition, and its prevalence has increased markedly in the past two decades. Research indicates that people with ASD are at increased risk for premature mortality from injuries. Often, children with ASD are prescribed multiple medications, increasing their risk for intentional and unintentional poisonings. We examined the epidemiologic patterns of emergency department (ED)-treated poisonings in children with ASD and the association of ED-treated poisonings with ASD according to common co-occurring conditions.

[Personal victimization experiences of autistic and non-autistic children](#)

Autistic children report higher levels of bullying victimization than their non-autistic peers. However, autistic children with fewer social difficulties, as measured on the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS), are more likely to report being bullied. Autistic children with stronger social skills may not only be more likely to identify and report incidents of bullying, but they may also be more likely to interact with their non-autistic peers, increasing their likelihood of being victimized. Autistic girls may be especially at-risk of experiencing bullying victimization, as a growing body of research suggests that autistic girls demonstrate fewer social difficulties and are more socially motivated than autistic boys. Here, we explored reported problems with peers and bullying victimization among a carefully matched sample of autistic and non-autistic boys and girls. Qualitative methods were further implemented to gain a more holistic understanding of the social experiences of autistic boys and girls.

[Swimming Lessons for Children With Autism: Parent and Teacher Experiences](#)

The occupation of swimming for children with autism is an unexplored field of research in the South African context. This study explores the experiences of swimming teachers and parents of children with autism in the context of swimming lessons. Semi-structured in-depth interviews were utilized with a qualitative, descriptive-phenomenological design. Data analysis utilized Colaizzi's seven-step method. Parents first sought swimming lessons for their children as a survival skill. Although facing barriers to accessing this service, parents experienced swimming as a meaningful occupation with unexpected benefits. Swimming teachers also derived meaning from providing lessons, despite a lack of knowledge. They expressed a need for greater support and training. Swimming is a meaningful occupation for children with autism and their families, but swimming teachers in South Africa are not always equipped to provide this service. Occupational therapists could play a variety of roles in supporting participation for all stakeholders.

[‘Show me what happened’: Low technology communication aids used in intermediary mediated police investigative interviews with vulnerable witnesses with an intellectual disability](#)

This study investigates the manner in which two types of communication aids (wooden mannequins and line drawings) that are selected, introduced and managed in real intermediary-mediated police investigative interviews, improve the quality of evidence with vulnerable witnesses and victims with an intellectual disability. Multimodality interactional work carried out by the interviewing police officer, an intermediary and the vulnerable witness with limited verbal abilities to answer the open question, ‘What happened?’ is analysed. We demonstrate that low technology communication aids can successfully be utilised to elicit the same type of information from those with limited verbal abilities, as the verbal open question ‘What happened?’, in an unrehearsed and unbiased manner. Aids used in this manner retain the functionality of open questions while reducing their linguistic complexity. This validates the importance of adopting special measures such as the involvement of an intermediary and communication aids in investigative interviews to promote equal opportunities and a fair trial for all.

[Are autistic people disadvantaged by the criminal justice system? A case comparison](#)

The UK government identified ‘improving support within the criminal justice systems’ as a priority for autistic people. There is a lack of quantitative research to enable policymakers to make evidence-based decisions on how to improve access to justice for autistic people. This study used a case-comparison design to compare the experiences of 145 autistic and 116 non-autistic adults who had been arrested at some point in their life. Autistic participants were nearly five times more likely to state that they were not given an appropriate adult even though they believed they needed one and felt less able to communicate with the police. Autistic participants felt less able to cope with stress, twice as likely to have experienced meltdowns and five times more likely to have experienced shutdowns because of their criminal justice involvement.

[Gendered play behaviours in autistic and non-autistic children: A population-based cohort study](#)

Gender-typical play is observed throughout childhood for non-autistic children. However, there has been limited research into the gender typicality of autistic children’s play compared to that of non-autistic children. In a longitudinal population-based cohort, we compared gendered play behaviours in autistic and non-autistic children using standardised parent-report (30, 42 and 57 months) and child-report (8 years) data (N = 11,251). We observed no difference in gendered play behaviours between girls with or without autism at any time point. Autistic and non-autistic boys did not differ in the gender typicality of their play when aged 30 months, but the play of autistic boys appeared less masculine than that of non-autistic boys ($\beta = -1.1$, 95% confidence interval = -2.1 to -0.2 ; and $\beta = -2.6$, 95% confidence interval = -4.7 to -0.5) at 42 and 57 months. Autistic boys also self-reported less masculine play behaviours than non-autistic boys at 8 years of age ($\beta = -3.4$, 95% confidence interval = -6.6 to -0.2). We found that autistic boys’ play was less gender typical than that of non-autistic boys in middle and later childhood. Our findings highlight the importance of examining gendered play behaviours in a developmental context and have relevance for understanding the development of gender identity in autism.

[How to improve hospital care for children with learning disabilities](#)

Small adjustments in hospitals could help children with learning disabilities receive the same care as other children, a report concluded. These children often find new environments and some procedures distressing. Researchers say that reasonable adjustments, such as using symbols and photos to communicate, and offering a private cubicle, could help.

[Virtual group-based mindfulness program for autistic women: A feasibility study](#)

Autistic women experience life differently than autistic men. For example, autistic women tend to be diagnosed significantly later than autistic men, they experience a higher number of traumas, and are at increased risk for mental health conditions. Given gender-specific life experiences, autistic women may benefit from gender-specific group-based supports. Virtual mindfulness has been shown to be helpful in improving well-being among autistic adults; however, limited research has explored the impact of virtual mindfulness when it is delivered to a group of autistic women only.

The aim of this article is to describe a preliminary evaluation of a virtual mindfulness group piloted for autistic women. Five key areas of feasibility were assessed in the current study: demand, implementation, acceptability, practicality, and limited efficacy testing.

[Homelessness in autistic women: Defining the research agenda](#)

Current evidence suggests that autistic individuals are at high risk for becoming and remaining in a cycle of homelessness. Key risk factors for homelessness disproportionately affect autistic people; however, we have limited understanding of how to best support autistic individuals accessing services. This gap in the evidence base is particularly acute for autistic women.

As a first step to address this gap, we aimed to (1) map gaps in knowledge and practice; (2) identify priority areas for research and (3) develop recommendations for how to implement novel research and practice in this area.

[Breast Cancer Screening Among Women With Intellectual Disability in Denmark](#)

Question Do women with intellectual disability (ID) participate in the Danish national breast cancer screening program to the same degree as other women at their age?

Findings In this nationwide cohort study of 5595 Danish women with ID, markedly lower participation in breast cancer screening was found compared with women without ID; 45% of women with ID and 13% of women without ID were never screened. Screening participation decreased with increasing severity of ID.

Meaning These findings suggest that a considerable proportion of Danish women with ID are not screened according to guidelines that exist to detect breast cancer at early stages.