

Yasmina Nait Slimane

Professor Dr. Newton Silva

ECE 410 0500

4/22/2022

Final paper

Children with Autism spectrum disorder (ASD)

Background about autism (ASD):

Autism was used in 1943 by the American child psychologist, Leo Kanner and it was labeled in the diagnostic and statistical manual DSM as an infantile autism. After that, searches had progressed and find different criteria for autism including Asperger's Syndrome, Rett syndrome, Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS) and childhood disintegrative disorder. Therefore, this diversity of descriptions of disorders associated with autism have led to the appearance and use of a more generous term: Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). According to American Academy of Neurology and Child Neurology Society, parent should observe their children and by one year of age, any child not gesturing, babbling, maintaining eye contact, looking, or responding to calling of their name, or having self-stimulatory movements such as hand flapping, is at risk for an autism spectrum disorder and should be referred to an appropriate diagnostic professional or center for autism. Research reports that 1 in 88 children are diagnosed with ASD in America. This disorder affects individuals from all socioeconomic, racial, and ethnic groups and boys are approximately five times more likely than girls to be diagnosed with the disorder. In this paper I will highlight what

autism is? Its causes, symptoms and characteristics. Next, I will demonstrate the treatment and education approach. Finally, I will mention the Legislation that relates to autism

Definitions of autism (ASD)

According to the book exceptional children an introduction to special education, “Autism is neurobehavioral syndrome marked by qualitative impairments of social interaction and communication, and by restricted repetitive, and stereotyped patterns of behavior”. Another source defines autism as a neurodevelopmental disorder defined by behaviors rather than by medical tests. Which means there are no blood tests, brain scans, or medical procedures available to identify autism.

The five types of autism (ASD):

1. **Autism:** According to Clarissa Willis a child must exhibit a significant number of characteristics to be diagnosed as a child with autism. Among these characteristics, a significant delay in social interaction, such as eye contact or expression; a communication delay; behaviors including stereotypical behavior, such as intense, almost obsessive, preoccupation with objects; the need for nonfunctional and ritualistic routines, such as lining up books or food in a certain manner; and repeated movements, such as finger popping or hand flapping.
2. **Asperger’s Syndrome:** it is also called level 1 autism when it comes to a formal use. children with Asperger’s syndrome behave typically like other children with autism when they are young. However, as they grow, they acquire different skills and they become more to socialize and integrates with typical children. They have normal intelligence which permit them to learn quickly.

3. **Rett syndrome:** According to Clarissa Willis Rett's syndrome is a disorder that develops as a child grows. children with this disorder manifest loss of motor skills, hand-wringing or repetitive hand washing, and a decrease in head growth. Seizures and sleeping disorders may also develop
4. **Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS):** is the diagnostic given for children who meet some, but not all criteria for autistic disorder. PDD-NOS is marked by significant impairment in socialization with difficulties in either communication or restricted interest.
5. **Childhood disintegrative disorder**, sometimes called Heller's syndrome, this is a degenerative condition in which a child may begin to develop normally but start to lose skills or seem to forget how to do things over a few months. Loss of skills usually happens in the area of toilet training, play, language, or problem solving, typically between ages 3 and 4. The significant improvement are very poor.

The causes of autism ASD:

scientist report that it is hard to talk about one thing that causes autism it is like a hard puzzle to solve because there is a several factors lead to autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Dr David Amaral assert that 1 or 2 percent of the genes related to causes autism. Moreover, according to Doctor Martha Herbert, toxics in our environment affect our brain. Also, Dr. Craig New Schaffer believes that the maternal diet and the infections that mothers may be exposed to in pregnancy, exaggeration chemicals in the environment in prenatal period could play a role in causing autism. For this reason, mothers or obviously parent should pay attention to such a situation.

Characteristics of Autism: Autism (ASD) is distinguished by three important characteristics.

1. Impaired sociability, empathy, and ability to read other people's moods and intentions, with resulting inadequate or inappropriate social interactions
2. Rigidity and perseveration, including both stereotypies (purposeless repetitive movements and activities), the need for sameness, and resistance to change.
3. Impaired language, communication, and imaginative play

This are common symptoms for autistic and it differs by the age for example, preschool children present lack of interaction, absence or severely delayed speech and communication, by school age, social and communication skills usually increase; however, they have a problems dealing with change and transitions and various self-stimulatory behaviors and sometimes including self-injury. at the adolescent age some kids tend to gain certain skill development while others tend to be delayed and having a deteriorate behavior. Also, these symptoms defer depending on the type of the autism diagnosed. Some parents tend to classify their children as an autistic as soon as they see one of the symptoms that we cited, and they get panic and stress. For this reason, in this situation they should know that it is always good to refers to specialist before labeling kids, because there is different ways and methods to diagnose autism spectrum disorder ASD. Among these methods, we find the DSM which is Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. According to this manual we cannot refer to only one symptom to diagnose the disorder. But rather we should have 6 or more symptoms including the three common characteristic such as impair of sociability, rigidity, and communication. Also, the second method is autistic diagnostic observation, it is based on the observation, and it is usually applied for 12month children and up as they are performing activities and the observer take notes. The third is autistic diagnostic interview

Treatment of and educational approach for ASD:

There are range wide effective approach and treatment that contribute to helping children who present the ASD among those approach:

1. The structured education: it is important to provide an intensive educational program for children with ASD to help them to better enhancing verbal and nonverbal communication, academic skills, and social, motor, and behavioral capabilities
2. Behavioral intervention it consists of the applied behavior analyze or ABA. The goals of ABA are to shape and reinforce new behaviors, such as learning to speak and play, and reduce undesirable ones.
3. Communication: Children who do not yet use words can be helped using alternative communication modalities, such as sign language, communication boards, visual supports, picture exchange, and other forms of augmentative communication.
4. Emotion-Based Social Skills Training (EBSST) is a manualized group-based intervention that aims to teach children with ASD skills in emotional competence. It has previously been adapted to meet the learning needs of children with ASD.

Legislation that relates to autism

1. **Americans with Disabilities Act** of 1990 (ADA) which is a piece of legislation that addresses discrimination against people with physical and mental disabilities and mandates many measures to make services and products accessible to people with disabilities.
2. **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act** which is the federal law that guarantees a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment for every person with a disability including children with autism.

works Cited

Clarissa Willis, *Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder strategies that works*, young children Journal, January 2009, at www.journal.naeyc.org/btj/200901. Clarissa Willis [Willis \(2009\).pdf](#)

Eric M. Anderman and Lynley H. Anderman, *Autism Spectrum Disorders*. Macmillan Reference USA, (Vol. 1.). 2009 https://go-gale-com.bmcc.ezproxy.cuny.edu/ps/i.do?p=GVRL&u=cuny_mancc&v=2.1&it=r&id=GALE%7CCX3027800035&inPS=true&linkSource=interlink&sid=AONE

Michael G. *Autism and Its Medical Management: A Guide for Parents and Professionals*, Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2008. ProQuest ebook Central, <http://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/bmcc/detail.action?docID=350321>.

Mullin, Jill. *Drawing Autism*, Akashic Books (Ignition), 2014. ProQuest Ebook Central, <http://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/bmcc/detail.action?docID=1531366>.

Autism Now: Autism Causes, produced by Public Broadcasting Service; interview by Robert MacNeil, 1931- (Arlington, VA: NewsHour Productions, 2011), https://searchalexanderstreetcom.bmcc.ezproxy.cuny.edu/view/work/bibliographic_entity%7Cvideo_work%7C2197792

Treatment of Children and Adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, Volume 53, Issue 8, August 2014, Pages 931, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0890856713008198>

William L. Heward *exceptional children an introduction to special education*, ninth edition, 2007 educational testing service.

[What Are the 5 Types of Autism? \(integrityinc.org\)](http://integrityinc.org)

[Legal Resources - Autism Society. \(autism-society.org\)](http://autism-society.org)

[Academic Success - Autism Society. \(autism-society.org\)](http://autism-society.org)