Social Interaction among Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

Seija Kangas 1
Satu Uusiautti 2
Kaarina Määttä 3

Abstract

The aim of this research is to study the social interaction of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Eleven groups of Finnish children with ASD (N= 45) were observed in organized and unstructured learning situations. The purpose of this article was to identify how children with ASD interact with other children. Based on the results, children with ASD as interaction partners are described. In addition, this article sought to highlight the communication assets of the learners with ASD thus contributing to the discussion of the positive aspects of ASD. The qualitative study revealed that the children with ASD were able to establish interaction and simple play routines with other children.

Keywords: autism, children with ASD, social interaction, play.

1 Oulu Vocational College, Finland
2 Faculty of Education, University of Lapland, Finland; E-mail: satu_uusiautti@hotmail.com
3 Faculty of Education, University of Lapland, Finland