

Development of communication behaviors in a child with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

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In this study I observed the communication behaviors and play of a child with autism spectrum disorders during play-therapy for one year and four months.

Communication behaviors were analyzed from two points of view, self-active communication, and response communication.

This study clarified the following two results.

First, the observation term, one year and four months, can be divided into three periods. The first period is an instrumental activity period (range from 42 to 45 months old). The second period is a pretend play period (range from 45 to 51 months). The third period is a Make-Believe period (range from 51 to 56months).

Second, qualitative change of communication behavior is exhibited in the second period. During this period, characteristic speech, such as speech attempting to continue communication, starts to appear. That is, communication behaviors as information transfer developed to communicate behaviors as social interaction. The development, in other words, is the change of communication behaviors to create a relationship between self and other. For such development, sharing ideas is important.