



OT 24 Hour Virtual Exchange

October 29/30/31

[Depending on where you are]

Exploring Balance



My name is **Christine Papanikolaou**. I am an Occupational therapist. I live in Thessaloniki, Greece. I have my own pediatric occupational therapy clinic. Recently, I finished my MSc in Advanced Occupational therapy which was a challenge for me

Children with autism or pervasive developmental disorder have been the object of interest for many scientists. Some of the difficulties that autistic children face are based on the perception and processing of sensory stimuli. This is a reason that the children cannot participate satisfactorily in some daily activities such as bathing, brushing of hair and social interaction with other people.

This presentation illustrates a project of an exploratory multiple case study research and its scope is to present how exactly the use of sensory integration activities affects the level of special social abilities of children with autism. The effect on a) autistic mannerism, b) length of visual contact, c) participation in play and d) use of verbal contact are the objectives of the project.

Especially, three children with autism involved in activities of sensory integration method for four weeks. The researcher collected the data using participant observation methodology, in the first and last week. In addition, the researcher got interviews from parents during the last week.

The application of sensory integration activities introduces positive results to these three children. Changes were observed in each child. In the first case, changes were observed in all patterns equally, while in the second case and third case changes were mainly observed in autistic mannerisms and participation in play.

Key words: autistic children, sensory integration intervention, multiple case study methodology