
Editorial Notes

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Editorial Notes

We are please to present to you a special issue focused on **autism** that deals with a variety of topics related to this population and considers the behavioral, emotional, and social components of the condition.

The issue begins with the first stage of early identification, continues with the analysis of parent-child relationships, and follows by describing the integration of behavioral techniques within occupational therapy, as well as technological tools to enhance social interaction.

This issue includes three articles in Hebrew and one in English. Each of the articles underwent an anonymous external review process by two reviewers, and we'd like to take this opportunity to thank them for their efforts in providing a thorough and professional critique of their colleagues.

As part of the international effort to develop efficient methods for the early identification of autism spectrum disorders, this issue presents a study that was conducted at University of Haifa, which examined the **differences between fathers and mothers in completing a questionnaire designed to identify signs of autism in one-year-old infants**. The article deals with the question of interpreting the results of a tool for the early identification of signs of autism from different respondents. The manner in which the parents perceived the early signs of autism represents a window into how they perceive the early development of their children.

The second article in this issue, which relates to **mothers' sensitivity to their children**, emphasizes the importance of the compatibility and awareness of the parent to the emotional-communicative signals of the child, through a review of measures, related studies and case studies. This topic is especially relevant to occupational therapists, who guide parents in analyzing the motivation behind the child's behaviors, broadening the circles of communication, and helping them build an appropriate play environment.

Addressing the area of intervention programs, the third article presents **the applied behavioral analysis (ABA) approach**, while demonstrating the immense potential of collaboration between the behavioral analysts and occupational therapists, and the benefits of such collaboration in advancing the child's ability.

Finally, the fourth article in this issue presents a review of the **use of state-of-the-art technologies to advance the social abilities of people with autistic**



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spectrum disorders. The article reviews studies that examined the feasibility and efficacy of these forms of technology and discusses their conclusions.

In the "Personal Glimpse" column, Ronen Gil, a man with autism, opens a window into life with autism, through his insights regarding his sensory perception and the influence of autism on the different areas of his life, through an interview with Dr. Eynat Gal.

*In the "Book Review column", we chose to describe the book: **Autism: A comprehensive occupational therapy approach**, published in 2004, which compiles information about the diagnosis of autism, the secondary disabilities, and the assessment and intervention process in occupational therapy for children with autism. This book is, in essence, a clinical book, which integrates case studies and examples of forms that support assessment and intervention. The most unique chapters in this book are those that discuss the significance of occupation for children with autism and evidence-based practice.*

In the "Technology" column, Dr. Eynat Gal and Raffi Rembrand describe the "Bio- Hug", an inflatable vest that applies adjustable pressure on the body of the wearer, providing him or her with relaxation and sensory modulation.

We hope you enjoy this issue,

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