Abstract

OBJECTIVE: The purpose of this research study is to determine if a sensorimotor playgroup will affect playfulness, sensory processing, and social participation of four children aged 15-36 months with ASD.

METHOD: A quasi-experimental, pre-test/post-test repeated measures design was implemented to examine three research questions:

- Does the playgroup increase playfulness in the children (Test of Playfulness)?
- Does the playgroup influence sensory processing as reported by caregivers on the Sensory Profile?
- Does the playgroup increase social participation in the children (Social Profile)

RESULTS: There was no significant effect (p > 0.05) on playfulness (F(1,1)=.638, p=.571), social participation (F(2,2)=6.48, p=.134), or sensory processing (χ²[2]=.933, p=.627) from the sensorimotor playgroup.

CONCLUSION: Due to limitations in sample size and missing data, results from this study have limited generalizability to inform on the use of playgroups in occupational therapy intervention of young children with Autism.

Methods & Materials

Intervention

- **Session 1:** Jumping Skills 7 stations focused on jumping over, on, and down
- **Session 2:** Prone Movements 7 stations focused on skills in prone position
- **Session 3:** Kicking and Throwing 7 stations focused on kicking and throwing (Objects theme)
- **Session 4:** Climbing 7 stations focused on climbing up, down, on, over, and under obstacles
- **Session 5:** Sensory and Balance 7 stations focused on balance and sensory activities
- **Session 6:** Continuation Stations consisting of a combination of skills from previous sessions

Playfulness (Top)

- **Session 1:** Hello Song, Cars, & Trucks
- **Session 2:** Hello Song, Cars, & Trucks
- **Session 3:** Hello Song, Cars, & Trucks
- **Session 4:** Hello Song, Cars, & Trucks
- **Session 5:** Hello Song, Cars, & Trucks
- **Session 6:** Hello Song, Cars, & Trucks

Sensory Processing

- **Session 1:** Cars, & Trucks: Musical Instruments
- **Session 2:** Cars, & Trucks: Musical Instruments
- **Session 3:** Cars, & Trucks: Musical Instruments
- **Session 4:** Cars, & Trucks: Musical Instruments
- **Session 5:** Cars, & Trucks: Musical Instruments
- **Session 6:** Cars, & Trucks: Musical Instruments

Sensory Profile

- **Session 1:** Cars, & Trucks
- **Session 2:** Cars, & Trucks
- **Session 3:** Cars, & Trucks
- **Session 4:** Cars, & Trucks
- **Session 5:** Cars, & Trucks
- **Session 6:** Cars, & Trucks

Social Participation

- **Session 1:** Cars, & Trucks
- **Session 2:** Cars, & Trucks
- **Session 3:** Cars, & Trucks
- **Session 4:** Cars, & Trucks
- **Session 5:** Cars, & Trucks
- **Session 6:** Cars, & Trucks

References


Participants

- Four male participants, 18 to 37 months, were recruited through Early Steps of Southwest Florida
- Inclusion Criteria: 15 months to 3 years of age
- Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS) classification of autism
- English speaking caregiver present at each session
- Informed consent was obtained from each caregiver and child

Results

- [Graphs showing data on playfulness, sensory processing, and social participation]