Reviewer's report

Title: Development of a Computer Assisted Learning (CAL) package to raise awareness of autism

Version: 1 Date: 25 August 2008

Reviewer: Tobias Bernd Weberschock

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions:
1. Major finding is the significant difference in retention performance score which is between 0 and 24. Findings are perhaps reported in the paper in percentages since they report averages of 87.76 resp. 81.25. If these are percentages there might be left-skewed data for which tests which depend on normal distribution are not adequate. Authors should clarify reporting and statistics before publication. (MCR)

Minor Essential Revisions:
2. Last sentence of introduction should reflect more precisely the research question posed (for example PICO scheme). (MER)
3. Generation of test set is described. Is there any work done to validate the questionnaire assessing the retention performance? What is with the internal consistency of the questions (e.g. Cronbach's alpha)? (MER)
4. Participant selection. Are the selected people representative for the people this intervention is intended to use for? (MER)

Discretionary Revisions:
5. Randomization was probably not adequately concealed and there is obvious imbalance in groups after randomization. Study size is very small which might also be a reason for imbalance (then by chance). (DR)
6. Effect size could be referred to as Cohen's d and perhaps explained what is meant by an effect size of 1. (DR)

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests