Reviewer's report


Version: 1 Date: 23 August 2012

Reviewer: Cheryl Dissanayake

Reviewer's report:


The study described here is well thought out and designed, and the data will be of much theoretical and practical interest.

Major Compulsory Revisions

Substantial revisions are needed in the writing of this manuscript which I suspect are a result of difficulties with English not being a first language. The first author may also lack experience in scientific writing. Throughout the manuscript the writing and grammar therefore needs at needs attention. A more concise style of writing suitable for journals is also needed. There is also a substantial amount of repetition throughout that should be edited, and a more concise style of writing adopted to enhance readability.

There also needs to be more clarity about the procedure. For example, it is unclear how many participants and trainers were in each group? Make sure there is sufficient detail so that this intervention may be replicated just as you plan to conduct it.

Minor Essential Revisions

Autism should be referred to as a ‘neurodevelopmental’ disorder rather than a ‘mental’ disorder

It is stated that ToM is delayed in many individuals – however, its more accurate to state that ToM is deficient in many individuals with autism, but it should also be stated that some individuals do develop a ToM albeit in a delayed fashion.

References are made to “effect” studies? Do you mean “intervention studies”?

"children benefit most [delete ‘of’; insert ‘from’] the intervention”.

“study 6 months persistence of effects a” reword

“including Autism, Asperger Syndrome and PDD-NOS), according to the DSM-IV-TR”[2]. If referring to the DSM, then use DSM terminology. That is, Autistic Disorder, Asperger’s Disorder, and PDD-NOS
“anamneses, heteroanamneses” Please specify English equivalents

delete “The general expectation is that it will take about 2.5 years to include 100 children referred to the outpatient clinic in the study.”

This paper would be of more interest when it is completed, and the findings also reported.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**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'