

Title: Social competence in preschool-aged children. Study 2 - An investigation of preschool children at risk of Autism Spectrum Disorder and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.	
Institution	School of Psychology, Australian Catholic University, Melbourne Campus
Researchers	Ms Franziska Brenk (Doctorate candidate) & Ass/Prof Sabine W. Hammond (Supervisor)
Contact Details	<a href="mailto:sabine.hammond@acu.edu.au">sabine.hammond@acu.edu.au</a> Phone: 9953 3102
Outline of Research	The social skills of children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) are often less well developed than the social abilities of their peers. This project is part of a larger study examining the development of social competence in preschool-aged children and aims to compare the social development of three groups of children: preschoolers who shows signs of, or are diagnosed with, ASD, ADHD, and typically developing preschoolers. Specifically, we want to examine differences in types of social skills among the three groups. For the study, we will ask parents and teachers to complete several questionnaires on the child's social skills and overall adjustment at home and at school. In addition, we will observe the preschooler's social play and give a brief test of their cognitive abilities.
Findings to date	The research is in the participant recruitment stage and therefore no preliminary findings can be reported.
Expected start and finish dates	The research is expected to be completed by the end of 2008.