

Title: Predictors of Engagement of Pre-School Children with Autism in Pre-School Settings.	
Institution	RMIT University, Division of Psychology
Researchers	Lisa Archer, Dr Susana Gavidia-Payne
Contact Details	lisa.archer@student.rmit.edu.au 9925 7393
Outline of Research	The study aims to determine which teacher and environmental characteristics are most predictive of increased engagement in pre-school children with Autism. Participants will be approximately 30 pre-school age (3-5 years) children with a diagnosis of Autism, attending typical pre-schools. Participants will be recruited through early childhood intervention programs around Victoria. Pre-schools attended by participants will then be contacted. Pre-school teachers will complete the Children's Engagement Questionnaire to determine levels of engagement. One 45 minute observation will be conducted in the pre-school to rate teacher and environmental characteristics using the Teaching Styles Rating Scale and the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale.
Findings to date	
Expected start and finish dates	June 2006 to January 2008