

**OBSERVATIONAL STUDY OF AUTISTIC BEHAVIOR IN SELECTED THAI
CHILDREN AT THE CHILD PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL
WITH REFERENCE TO THE DSM-IV**

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research was to get the frequency of autistic behavior of the specific symptoms, associated and other atypical symptoms by using the Checklist for Autism in Young Children of Susan Dickerson Mayes Chief Psychologist Associate Professor Department of Psychiatry, and Susan L. Calhoun MS Research Associate Department of Psychiatry, from The Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine Hershey, Pennsylvania, in The United States. 100 samples of young children with autism all under 15 years old who received treatments at Yuwaprasart Waithayoprathump child Psychiatric Hospital. The Semi-structured interview conducted to fathers or mothers or caretakers on 100 subjects by using Interview question. Nurses checklist on Autistic Symptoms and historical data were reviewed to obtain as much as the different domain of autistic behavior. The frequency data was analyzed percentages. The findings of the study are presented as follow:

1. There were three symptoms that tended to have high percentages on problems with Social Interaction. 100% on social skill deficit, 92% showed social isolation withdrawal and 87% showed limited eyes contact, reciprocal interacting, social smile, sharing and showing

2. There were three symptoms with the majority on Perseveration behavior about 90% had stereotype behavior such as repetitive or self-stimulating behavior or vocalization, 87% had a narrow or unusual range of interests and 60% was play behavior and obsessive preoccupation
3. There were two high frequency score on Somatosensory Disturbance 89% autistic children had feeding disorder which involved limited food preference and 72% showed love of movement, swinging and rocking
4. There were two symptoms considered to have high frequency on Atypical Development Pattern 86% autistic children had Atypical Vocalization and 80% of the children had an expressive language disorder.
5. There are three symptoms with the majority in Mood Disturbance which were 84% showed overreactivity, irritability, tantrums, aggressive and self-injurious behavior when interruptions occurred. 84% of the autistic children had emotional labile with mood changes:- laughing or becoming upset for no apparent reason. 70% autistic children had flat affect, or unresponsive in some situations.
6. There were symptoms of Problems with Attention and Safety considered to have high percentage at 76%. They showed Recklessness, limited safety awareness, oblivious to danger almost running off by himself and going into traffic. 71% presented selective attention and hyperfocused on activities
7. This study failed to support two DSM-IV diagnosis criteria absence of make-believe play and absence of gesture communication.
8. There were some of the checklist symptoms defined as association features which was not descriptive in the DSM-IV and occurred as high as that for the

diagnostic symptoms as follow: 1) 100% of the children exhibited one or more of the Somatosensory Disturbance 2) 84% were over reactively distressed by input or occurrences that most children can tolerate and exhibited mood problem e.g., irritability and tantrums 3) 60% of children exhibited splinter skills, which most often involved rote memory, mechanical skill, or gross motor skill



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