

ART THERAPY AND SOCIAL SKILLS OF CHILDREN WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

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Abstract_ The purpose of this paper is to explore the value of art therapy intervention in the children's social development and ability to relate, the selected sample was (10) children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, was divided into two groups, (5) as a control group & (5) as an experiment group, and using the social skills checklist; by Gazzal (2007).

The result showed the effectiveness of Art therapy as a way of treating individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder, The use of nonverbal expression through the experience of making art encourages children with autism to begin to represent their experiences. Forms represent objects and the very act of drawing with intention may encourage attachment to the object. Children create art because it is rooted in the need to relate to their world.

Key words: Art Therapy, Social Skills, Autism spectrum Disorder, intervention