

EFFECTIVENESS OF COGNITIVE ACTIVITIES TRAINING PROGRAM BASED ON PICTURE EXCHANGE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM (PECS) AND ITS EFFECT TO INCREASE SOCIAL INTERACTIONS IN AUTISTIC CHILDREN

KHALED GHAZI ALDALBAHI

Assistant Professor of Special Education, Faculty of Education,
Ad Dawadmi, Shaqra University-KSA

ABSTRACT_ *The study aimed to identify the effectiveness of cognitive activities training program based on Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) and its effect to increase social interactions in autistic children. The study sample consisted of (20) autistic children experimental group (N 10) and control group (N 10) with mean age (10.5) years, and IQ (76.5). The study tools include: Cognitive Level Assessment for autistic children By; the researcher, Social Interaction for autistic children By [8], and Cognitive Activities Training Program for autistic children By; the researcher. The study results showed that there are significant statistically differences in the mean ranks on cognitive level assessment and social interactions scale between experimental and control groups favoring the experimental group, and that there are significant statistically differences in the mean ranks on cognitive level assessment and social interactions scale between pre and post assessment in the experimental group favoring post assessment, and that that there are no significant statistically differences in the mean ranks on cognitive level assessment and social interactions scale between post and follow up assessments in the experimental group.*

KEYWORDS: *cognitive activities, Picture Exchange Communication System, social interactions, autistic children.*