



Increasing Perspective Taking and Social Participation: Designing and validating a Virtual Reality Intervention for Autism

Principal Investigator

Tal Jarus, PhD
Professor
The University of British Columbia
Department of Occupational Science &
Occupational Therapy

Co-Investigator

Parisa Ghanouni
PhD Student
The University of British Columbia
Department of Occupational Science &
Occupational Therapy

Hello,

We are Occupational Therapy students at the University of British Columbia. We are conducting a research project to develop a virtual reality program to address perspective taking, emotion recognition, and social participation in children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

You may be interested in participating in an iterative version of validating the content and scenarios of this virtual reality program – the following information and attached poster will give you more detailed information.

Purpose

The goal is to involve different stakeholders, including multidisciplinary clinicians and parents of children with ASD to have their feedback incorporated in a therapeutic virtual reality program addressing perspective taking and socio-emotional skills. In the previous phase of the study, we explored perspectives and experiences related to emotion recognition, social participation, and therapeutic computer games for children with ASD. In this phase, we will design and validate the content of the program through online questionnaires and obtaining feedback from stakeholders. We hope that exploring these viewpoints will provide a knowledge base that can support the development of a virtual therapeutic intervention, which is cost-effective and motivational for children with ASD.

Participation

Participation will entail your involvement in filling out two rounds of online questionnaires and obtaining your feedback during a few cycles. The questionnaires will include social scenarios and explore your level of agreement on the scenarios that will be used in the virtual reality program. The content of the scenarios will revolve around the ability of children with ASD to recognize emotions and perspective taking to improve social skills. We hope to gather a multidisciplinary perspective based on your experiences and validate the scenarios prior to development of the program.

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary and you may choose to discontinue at any time.

Please see the attached poster for further details. If you have any further questions about this project or your potential participation, please do not hesitate to contact the research team at kristin.mow@alumni.ubc.ca akrowe@alumni.ubc.ca.

Alyssa Rowe
UBC Occupational Therapy Student

Kristin Mow
UBC Occupational Therapy Student