



Recruitment Poster

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If you have any questions about this document, please get in touch with the author.

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Exploring the influence of digital technology on social play in children with autism

We are recruiting groups of children with autism and learning disability aged 5-12 for a new study exploring how digital games influence social play. We will compare how children interact with each other on digital and non-digital activities.



What's involved for the children?

Permission from children's parents will be collected before the study begins. Children will complete some play-based assessments of social and cognitive skills with a researcher, which will take about an hour. They will then be observed in pairs playing with similar non-digital and digital activities over a series of 6 sessions (3 non-digital, 3 digital), with each session lasting 20 minutes, over the course of a few weeks (planned around the school schedule). All sessions will be video recorded, and usual staff team will be present to support the children as usual. Children's well-being and choice will be respected and monitored throughout.

What's involved for the staff team?

Practitioners will attend an informal planning session before the October holidays to pick the technologies and activities used in the study. Staff will be present during all sessions with the researcher. We will provide guidance and training on what to do during sessions. We will aim to hold sessions between Oct & Dec holidays.

What does the school gain from this?

We provide an opportunity to engage in evidence-based, practitioner-driven research. We value input from staff in making our study decisions relevant for practitioners and in interpreting our results. We offer all schools a gift token of £50 for participating or a goody-bag of toys and games used in the study. All schools receive a summary report of our research which can be used in reviews and inspections.

Want more information?

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www.dart.ed.ac.uk/autism-tech-play

