

An Exploratory Study of the Perception of Parents of Autistic Children : Parenting Skills, Children's Qualities, and Protective Factors Against Stress

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Recommandations cliniques

Note étude met en relief les points suivants, qu'il serait important d'intégrer aux programmes de soutien parental :

Qualités

Il faudrait travailler sur les qualités normales, car les parents de jeunes enfants ont un enfant mais non présentes chez son enfant. Les interventions actuelles ont ciblé des qualités moins associées à l'autisme pour décrire leurs enfants. Les intervenants occupant auprès de ces familles devraient les laisser s'exprimer sur la perception qu'ils ont de leurs enfants pour mieux répondre à leurs besoins.

Compétences parentales
Il importe de valoriser les compétences parentales des parents d'enfants autistes. Les parents d'enfants autistes ont notamment moins soutenus des compétences de type IC comme importantes. Cela veut dire qu'il faudrait leur permettre de développer leurs habiletés comme parents et non comme intervenants en risant sur leurs compétences qui ne sont pas de type IC.

Activités partagées
Il apparaît nécessaire de mettre l'accent sur des activités parent-enfant, actives. Les parents d'enfants autistes semblent avoir moins de faire des sorties ou activités de se divertir. Lorsque les intervenants suggèrent des activités de détente, ils devraient tenir compte du fait que la détente et la solitude ne semblent pas être de moments de répit au sens des parents.

Réseau social
Il sera important d'intégrer les intervenants qui composent une partie importante de leur réseau social dans les programmes de soutien parental. La famille immédiate occupe une place centrale dans le réseau social des familles, alors il serait pertinent de la faire participer à la planification du soutien.

Inéquités
Les inéquités normales par les parents d'enfants autistes étant liées aux caractéristiques de leurs enfants, valoir les forces de l'enfant permettrait de réduire celles-ci. De la même façon, ces parents ont pour principes sources d'inéquités que leurs enfants sont espérés, qu'ils ont un retard de développement et qu'ils ne soient pas prêts pour l'école. Il faudrait donc chercher à travailler avec ces parents sur des points tant dans la perception du parent que dans les caractéristiques de l'enfant.

Défi
Bien que le pourcentage relatif ne soit pas élevé, il apparaît nécessaire d'investiguer la question des relations familiales dans une recherche future, dans l'optique d'inclure une composante adressant ce défi dans les programmes de soutien aux parents destinés à ces parents.

Results

Qualities of a child

Qualities	Autistic	Typical
Empathetic	40.0%	50.0%
Self-sufficient (90%)	30.0%	40.0%
Obedient	30.0%	40.0%
Stable	30.0%	40.0%

Parents of autistic children say self-sufficient, affectionate and obedient to their children. It is possible that these parents, knowing that their child could find more difficulties in terms of self-sufficiency, place a greater emphasis on this quality. The attributes to (a) social interactions, (b) language, (c) symbolic play or imagination are part of the diagnosis of autism and delay the child's self-sufficiency.

Qualities of a child vs my child

Qualities	My child	Typical
Empathetic	30.0%	40.0%
Self-sufficient (90%)	20.0%	30.0%
Obedient	30.0%	40.0%
Stable	30.0%	40.0%

The quality Caritas is chosen by parents of autistic children and parents of typical children, both for a child and for my child. The results of our research were conducted for children from 3 to 5 years old. It is possible that the membership of this quality is explained by the protective nature of the preschooler intelligence.

A child vs my child (autistic)



Parents of autistic children show a statistically significant difference in their perception of their child's qualities compared to typical children. However, these qualities are not normally associated with someone diagnosed with autism. These results suggest that parents of autistic children perceive themselves as more different from what is expected from an autistic child than when they are seen as a parent, and they remember these differences. Because the child should not present these qualities when he adopts a particular behaviour that is contrary to the expectations attributed to the diagnosis, it is possible that even though parents of autistic children build the quality, they don't consider them for their main parenting skills. In relative percentages, parents of autistic children mention more often "Take good care of her" as a parenting skill they give value to in judging themselves. This seems to suggest that they feel the need to agree that they are competent parents.

Parenting skills according to the intervention program



There are no differences that are statistically significant between parents of autistic children and parents of typical children. However, in relative percentages, parents of typical children perceive themselves as having 10 more skills and parents of autistic children as having skills that are common to both types of programs. These results are surprising, we would have thought that parents of autistic children would have more skills, as they would want to stimulate their child more than other parents. It is possible however that even though parents of autistic children build the quality, they don't consider them for their main parenting skills. In relative percentages, parents of autistic children mention more often "Take good care of her" as a parenting skill they give value to in judging themselves. This seems to suggest that they feel the need to agree that they are competent parents.

Shared activities by nature of the activity



In relative percentages, parents of autistic children do more shared activities (structured) more often with their children than parents of typical children. With **Crédis**, significant differences were found for shared activities, which may be due to the fact that this activity is often suggested as a means of developing generalist activities.

Reciprocal activities by nature of the activity



Parents of autistic children mention more reciprocal activities (structured) more often with their children than parents of typical children. This result is surprising, we would have thought that parents of autistic children would have more skills, as they would want to stimulate their child more than other parents. It is possible however that even though parents of autistic children build the quality, they don't consider them for their main parenting skills. In relative percentages, parents of autistic children mention more often "Take good care of her" as a parenting skill they give value to in judging themselves. This seems to suggest that they feel the need to agree that they are competent parents.

Social network categorized by network type



Parents of autistic children mention more family members (structured) more often with their children than parents of typical children. This result is surprising, we would have thought that parents of autistic children would have more skills, as they would want to stimulate their child more than other parents. It is possible however that even though parents of autistic children build the quality, they don't consider them for their main parenting skills. In relative percentages, parents of autistic children mention more often "Take good care of her" as a parenting skill they give value to in judging themselves. This seems to suggest that they feel the need to agree that they are competent parents.

Parents' concerns by nature of the concern



Parents of autistic children mention more concerns (structured) more often with their children than parents of typical children. This result is surprising, we would have thought that parents of autistic children would have more skills, as they would want to stimulate their child more than other parents. It is possible however that even though parents of autistic children build the quality, they don't consider them for their main parenting skills. In relative percentages, parents of autistic children mention more often "Take good care of her" as a parenting skill they give value to in judging themselves. This seems to suggest that they feel the need to agree that they are competent parents.

Défi comme parent catégorisés selon leur nature



Parents of autistic children mention more challenges (structured) more often with their children than parents of typical children. This result is surprising, we would have thought that parents of autistic children would have more skills, as they would want to stimulate their child more than other parents. It is possible however that even though parents of autistic children build the quality, they don't consider them for their main parenting skills. In relative percentages, parents of autistic children mention more often "Take good care of her" as a parenting skill they give value to in judging themselves. This seems to suggest that they feel the need to agree that they are competent parents.

Theoretical context

The level of stress perceived by parents of autistic children is significantly higher than the stress level perceived by parents of typically developing children. This stress can have a negative effect on parents' mental health. Social relationships (social relationships, social relationships) Some indicators of their own situation identified: -stressful intra-familial pressures -parents' perception of their own situation -parents' programs participation

Objectives of the research

To compare the perceptions of parents of autistic and typical children with regards to their parenting skills and social network support.

To discover the strengths and resilience factors specific to families of autistic children so that parenting programs can be adapted consequently.

Methodology

Questionnaire taken from the **Mai** common parents' package. This package can be tailored to the needs of parents of children between the age of 0 to 5, whether they have specific needs or not. Allow the implementation of parenting programs that are based on parents' perception of their own situation and appreciate their attachment to their child (take advantage of the resources and the support of their social network).

Questionnaires

Qualities Social network Challenges encountered
Parenting skills Reciprocal activities
Shared activities Parents' concerns

2 groups

Autistic	Typique
n 29	n 13
Average age 51.43 months	Average age 36.85 months
Sex 24 boys (82.8%) 5 girls (17.2%)	Sex 9 boys (69.2%) 4 girls (30.8%)
Family status 27 united families (93.1%) 2 single-parent families (6.9%)	Family status 13 united families

Both groups

n 42
Average age 46.8 months
Sex 33 boys (79%) 9 girls (21%)
Family status 40 united families (95.2%) 2 single-parent families (4.8%)