



# Children with ASD should have a voice in research about their participation in activities.

## Participation of children with autism spectrum disorder: Comparing the perspectives of children and their caregivers

Samantha Gay and Shakila Dada

### Introduction

- Research on **participation** of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) predominantly includes **proxy interviews** with caregivers.
- Research should also include the **child's voice**.

### Methodology

- Non-experimental, comparative survey using Picture my Participation.
- To describe and compare **perspectives** regarding **participation** of children with ASD.

### Results

- Strong agreement between caregiver and children's perspectives on participation but **significant differences** were also found.
- Mostly agreement between children and caregivers but **significant differences** were also found.
- Most common **barrier** to participation perceived by children was **personal functioning**, and by caregivers was **social exclusion**.
- Most common **facilitator** of participation was **personal capability** for children and **satisfaction** for the caregivers.

### Discussion

- While there is agreement between perceptions of caregivers and their children, **differences do exist**.
- Future participation studies should include the **self-voiced perceptions** of children with ASD.

### Perceptions of participation

Activities	Children	Caregivers
<b>Most frequently attended</b>	Organised leisure; caring for animals; paid/unpaid employment	Caring for family
<b>Most frequently involved in</b>	Caring for family; caring for animals	Organised leisure; family mealtime
<b>Prioritised</b>	Quiet leisure; organised leisure; family mealtime	Quiet leisure; organised leisure; family mealtime

