

This Essay will discuss autism in children it is going to discuss its characteristics, causes and prevalence rates it is also going to discuss interventions and treatments for this childhood disorder Autism is described as a severe and complex brain disorder it is said to have an affect on one to two children out of a thousand, children with Autism will never outgrow the condition, as so far there is no known cure it is also the most common of disorder's in ASD/PDD it also is more common in males than females (Attwood 2006) they will go through a variety of different screening tests like a cognitive assessment, direct child observation n, parent/guardian interview, adaptive, academic assessment and communication and language assessment. They will have to have six or more of the symptoms Children with autism have unusual sensory responses in many autistic children. The first person to define autism was Leo Kanner in 1943 when he noticed 11 children with similar patterns in behavior since 1943 the diagnosis of autism has changed since then but recent studies show autism is three to four times higher than 30 years ago (fombonne 2003). The prevalence rates have changed a lot through the years it is said the best estimate for every spectrum is 60 in 10,000 children. (The medical research council (2001). This is a much larger number than the research in 1966 which said the prevalence rate was 4.5 in 10,000 children. (Lotter. (1966). Children with Autism will be likely to need assistance all their lives depending on the severity of their symptoms and condition and of they have additional needs also, every child is different and not one child will act the same as each other. There is very little known about the causes of Autism all though research is still on going and different professionals argue whether it is present at birth or later on at ages 18 months plus. It has been said that autism is caused by child vaccinations etc. but there is no evidence to show this. (Wing and Potter. (2002) Children will normally show symptom's of having this condition from the age of three and can even be found even earlier than this. The symptom's you can find children with autism find it difficult and have a lack of communication and may just repeat what they have heard like a parrot and you find they talk at you not to you and find it difficult to have communication with others and their language is delayed some have no communication or language skills which can seen from a very young age they may learn new words use them then forget them. Still much higher than in typical children. They do not look at you eye to eye and will often not hold your gaze which makes Forming relationships very hard for children with autism and they lack social skills that are needed to have to form relationships and they find it hard to share or with taking turns with other people they are inwards and seem to not want anything to do with the outside world around them and be in their own world no smiling and seeming to be none responsive. Routine is very important to a autism child they don't like change in their routine if disturbed can make the child very irritated most children will have a chart for the day explaining what will happen through out the day what times it will be happening, They notice the slightest change or the littlest of details and don't like new routines or object in their lives and will notice if anything changes which include in their normal surroundings, changes to their routine or objects etc. they have a fear of strange or new places which tends to lead to them having a outburst they tend to have unusual interests in objects which they will always have to have with them even if it has no use e.g. will carry round a toothbrush even though they might not be using or need it will have to still carry it and I might not be

because it's a tooth brush it could be because they like the object can be the same with light switches etc. Noise can affect them deeply and certain sound or pitch can make a child become very irritated and uncomfortable they will want volume on a certain number and like to wear headphones on a certain volume. And will watch the same movies on repeat without getting bored of it. Children with autism also can have difficulty sleeping at night, which can leave to the child having erratic sleep patterns. They lack the empathy of others and don't understand other people's feelings

Now the essay will go on to discuss the interventions and treatments for autism There are no treatments or interventions that are known to cure autism and there are very little that have been proven to show to make a signifying long-term effect as each child is different treatment may vary as the child's needs are different even though over the past 20 years there's been various research into the condition. The child should have a team of staff working together and with the child which include a pediatrician, speech and language therapist, clinical and educational psychologists and others may be included when it come to assessments. There are loads of different approaches, which can include diet control, pharmacological treatments, psychotherapy, behavior modification also known as (ABA) and cognitive self-management. (ABA) is known to have the best results in autism in children The earlier you identify and diagnosis autism in a child the better combined with treatments can have a suffecicly good effect on the child's functioning (Harris 1994; Sheinkopf and Siegel 1998). Cognitive behavioral therapy or (CBT) as it is also called can help when addressing separate co existing problems, but it can cause problems in severely autism children as they can not self monitor themselves the treatment also depends on the child's age and needs. There are many more treatments that have been tried which include music therapy, play therapy, speech and language therapy, sensory- integration training and social skills coaching. A helpful treatment that seems to help autistic children are social stories (Quirnbachet al. 2009) they are used to suit the personalized need of that child so that they can relate to the story and helps them learn e.g. taking turns or sharing with another child but it depends on the child and the needs on which treatment will help as one treatment might help one child but have no effect on another child. Sensory integrations therapy is used to address the sensory symptoms (National research council 2001) it is helpful if used over all with other therapy but so far no research has shown definite evidence or research to show that its helpful on its own. Parent training is very important when it comes to an autistic child and helps with social skills. Applied behavior treatment can help this is giving the child rewards and fading trying to make them as independent as possible over all the treatments for autism seems to vary from the child to the treatment and depending on the child and how sever the autism is in the child. Early intensive behavioral intervention (EIBI) is shown to have a positive effect on a child with autism. (Eikeseth, 2009)

The current research seems to appear to support the perception that children that has autism ought to start behavioral intervention as early as possible, but this can be reduced by what age the disorder is detected. (Matson, Wilkins, & Gonzale' z, 2008; Matson et al.,2009).

While EIBI is maintained by a large basis of empirical evidence, a large several features still need additional research as there are still some un answered questions. (Matson and Smith. (2008). This shows that although there is no cure for autism there are activities and treatments that can help have a better effect on the child's development.

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