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### Effect of a sensory integration program on the development of children with autism

**Nagwa A Zein El Dein, Maha I Khalifa and Ghada A Hassan**  
Menoufia University, Egypt

Autism is the most common developmental disorder that causes profound delay in communication, language, cognitive and sensory motor development. The aim of this study was to evaluate the effect of a sensory integration program on the development of children with autism. A quasi experimental design (pre and posttest) was used. A convenient sample of 30 autistic children and their mothers were involved. The study was conducted at Nedaa center for auditory impaired children and Gamayet Kayan for mentally retarded children in Cairo. Seven data collection instruments were utilized (biosocial characteristics of children structured interview questionnaire, childhood autism rating scale (CARS), Wechsler intelligence scale for children, autism social skills profile, sensory profile questionnaire, test of visual –auditory perception and assessment of basic language and learning skills tools). The results of this study showed that after three and six months of sensory integration program majority of children had higher scores for social, sensory, communication, motor and perception development. The study concluded that children who received sensory integration program developed higher cognitive, motor, language, social, perception, attention, communication and sensory abilities on posttest. Therefore, this study recommended that sensory integration program should be integrated as a part of pediatric nursing rehabilitation for autistic children.

#### Biography

Nagwa A Zein El Dein is a Professor of Pediatric Nursing at Menoufia University. She had been working since graduation in 1986 as an Instructor and upgrading until her proficiency. Also, she worked at Philadelphia University, Amman, Jordan as an Associate Professor and as a Quality Assurance Officer. She has many qualifications in teaching critical pediatric nursing, nursing theories, nursing research and many other subjects as pediatric neonatology and rehabilitation. Also, she is participating in conducting nursing thesis and as an evaluator in many. As well as joining in the national project as quality assurance in higher education and project sponsored by HEEPH to reconstruct nursing curriculum through critical thinking skills for accreditation as well as developing learning modules for pediatric nursing course manual procedure of pediatric nursing.

nagwa\_ahmedzin@gmail.com

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