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IDENTIFICATION OF AUTISTIC COMMUNICATION PROFILE IN CHILDREN WITH MILD INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

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Aim: Autistic communication profile in children who speak in sentences is characterized by significant deficits in social relationships and restricted interests coupled with low general communication ability.

The objective of this research is to determine autistic communication profile in children with sub average intellectual functioning.

Method: The sample consisted of 128 participants with mild intellectual disability, of both sexes, aged from 6 to 16 ($M=12.53$; $SD=2.81$). Communication abilities were assessed using Children's Communication Checklist (CCC-2).

Results: It was found that 7 (5.47%) students achieved scores below the 6th percentile of normative population on scales Social Relationship and Interests, coupled with General Communication Composite score below the 10th percentile. Four of them (3.13% of the sample) also obtained Social Interaction Deviance composite score less than zero. This communication profile is frequently seen in children with autism spectrum disorders.

Conclusion: It could be concluded that more than 3% of the children with mild intellectual disability may merit further assessment for an autistic spectrum disorder.