

with a total of 178 subjects, 90 girls and 88 boys, divided in control ($n=94$) and experimental groups ($n=84$), with average age of 3.7 y. Children were evaluated in receptive and expressive vocabulary, central auditory processing and behavior. Subjects of the experimental group were engaged in intervention for three months for the development and refinement of language and behavior through activities developed in software used in tablets and orientation provided to their parents and teachers by a professional team composed by speech therapists, psychologists and psycho-pedagogues. The subjects improved their performance in all tests. There was a significant difference in the performance of behavioral and language tests in posttest, indicating that improvement was due to the intervention proposed. This research was supported by the Foundation for Research Support of the State of São Paulo (FAPESP) and Maria Cecilia Souto Vidigal Foundation (FMCSV) whose agreement aims to develop and support projects with potential application in society. These results are meant to guide the design of a project, which will allow the early identification of communication disorders and behavioral difficulties and the development of continuing education actions for the teachers.

Disclosure of interest The authors have not supplied their declaration of competing interest.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.eurpsy.2016.01.1594>

EV610

Scientific research providing behavioral support for teachers on the modification of inadequate behavior among adolescents enrolled in a language course in Brazil

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Education can benefit from psychological research concerning students' behavioral problems in order to provide teachers information on how to handle those behavioral issues, since those can predict late psychiatric disorders and interfere negatively with academic achievement. This research investigated problem behavior of students (10–12 yrs) of a language course in Brazil. Behavior was investigated through a problem behavior questionnaire considering the potential effects of peer and teacher attention. The initial hypotheses that there would be a positive correlation between problem behavior and poor academic performance was partially confirmed once correlation between some items of the problem behavior questionnaire and the performance in academic assessment was found. Among all the 15 elected problem behaviors, most of them appear to have the functionality of gaining peer attention and avoiding teacher attention; followed by gaining both teacher and peer attention and gaining teacher attention. These results were used as parameters for the suggestion of positive behavioral support, which contributed to an improved academic performance and to behavioral changes among the students. There was an increase of one point in the academic performance and reduction of 27.8% of the emission of deviant behavior. Nevertheless, a teacher training program showed to be necessary for the teachers to learn how to handle adolescent behavioral problems. These results indicate that scientific research should be put at the service of education, especially in developing countries where lack of resources urges health and education policy makers to take into account findings which may impact a child's health and learning.

Disclosure of interest The authors have not supplied their declaration of competing interest.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.eurpsy.2016.01.1595>

EV611

Educating to legality. A tool to prevent crimes of psychiatric patients

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Introduction Be a citizen means having rights but also duties and be subject to laws. Educating to legality is essential for mutual respect in the community, for the rules of social life and to exercise own rights of citizenship. A psychiatric patient can commit crimes because of mental disorders but also in absence of psychopathological problem. When a patient commits an offence, it is correct to know whether he was due and if he is actually a danger to society. The law do not allow ignorance but what patients really know about the law is not clear.

Objective In this study, we want to investigate the legal knowledge in citizens with mental disorders. Moreover, we want to build pathways to increase compliance with the law.

Methods We collected a cohort of 10 offenders and asked them if they were interested in an educational course on legality. We interviewed a sample of patients at risk of breaking the Penal code to assess their basic knowledge.

Results The reasons to undertake an educational program on compliance with the law were higher for offenders, maybe for fear of damaging sanctions. Those at risk of being sued for their behavior seemed to have more background than other group.

Conclusions It is essential to develop educational programs about crime prevention within the psychiatric field through training courses that increase the knowledge and awareness of effects of the Penal code. Moreover, citizens with mental disorders at risk of crimes should be supported by specific interventions aimed to social ethics.

Disclosure of interest The authors have not supplied their declaration of competing interest.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.eurpsy.2016.01.1596>

Emergency psychiatry

EV613

Gender differences and characteristics of psychiatric patients assessed in the emergency department of a regional hospital in Canada

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Background Epidemiological studies of emergency room (ER) psychiatric settings can help monitor unmet needs and improve the quality of care.

Objectives To characterize the patients presenting to emergency department with psychiatric complaints in a medium sized health centre in oil sands region of the Northern Alberta.

Methods Information on a data assessment tool designed to capture all relevant demographic and clinical characteristics of psychiatric patients in the ER was compiled as part of a clinical audit process.