

**Title**

The effectivity of Theory of Mind treatment on ToM performance and social emotional functioning in adolescents with Specific Language Impairment.

Authors

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Adolescents with specific language impairment (SLI) are at greater risk of emotional and behavioral problems. These problems can partly be explained in terms of Theory of Mind (ToM) deficits. Based on neuropsychological insight into the interplay between language and ToM deficits a specialized ToM group treatment is developed (Vissers & Honée, 2017). We explore the effectivity of this ToM group treatment on ToM performance and social emotional functioning in adolescents with SLI. To this, aim 18 adolescents with SLI take part (3 treatment groups). Before the ToM treatment starts current level of affective and cognitive ToM functioning is investigated with the Emotion Recognition Task (ERT: recognizing emotions from faces) and the Faux Pas Task (FPT: detecting faux pas in social contexts). To shed light on the level of social emotional functioning, personal treatment goals are set and defined according to Goal Attainment Scaling (GAS) procedures. A post treatment measurement is performed with the same ToM tests and GAS interview. ERT results showed no significance in pre- and post-measurement ($p = .782$). With the Faux Pas Task no significant effect was found in false belief understanding ($p = .182$). Results for GAS were significant, ($Z = -3.10$, $p = .002$). GAS scores and clinical observations indicate positive effects of the ToM treatment for ToM and social emotional functioning. Absence of significance for the ERT and FPT is plausibly due to a small N .