

# The amalgamation of Children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD) into mainstream primary school, from the Educator's viewpoint.

Lisa Phelan 1381993, Supervisor Name: Siobain O' Donnell



## Abstract

The inquiry of this study examined whether a child with ASD would require primarily, structured integration into mainstream school according to each child's specific needs, in order to acquire a flourishing placement henceforth. Six participants were utilized for this study, chosen from three areas. Research employed a qualitative approach; interviews. Data was collected on a voice recorder and analyzed. Information acquired four major areas; school and service users, difficulties, approach to integration and increasing integration. The results denoted the imperative awareness of Autism as a spectrum disorder and agreed on the vital role of a structured integration.



## Introduction

ASD is a neuro-developmental disorder, which for every 166 children, international statistics state that one child has this disorder, and subsequently in relation to Ireland, it affects approximately 5000 young children today. Ireland's current economy has emphasized the plight of securing a suitable placement for children with ASD. The cut-backs recently for example, in education have resulted in fewer appointments for special needs assistants; as a result the nation has shown appropriate outrage and concern that this will have a significant impact on children with special needs, in this case ASD. This research project aims to gain an insight into the role of teachers and special needs assistants working with children diagnosed with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

This project will endeavour to bring to light the undertaking of these professional bodies to assist children with ASD to amalgamate into mainstream school.



## Method

The design of this research project will be a qualitative approach, chosen in accordance to the subject matter. A qualitative approach will permit a subjective methodology to the findings that would not have been available using a quantitative design given the chosen subject matter. The selection of a predetermined set of individuals chosen in order to acquire the exact information necessary focuses on the method of a qualitative approach further (Patton, 1990, as cited in Pitney and Parker, 2009). Participants will take part in semi-structured interviews. It is also vital to make known that this research project will abide by the code of ethics to uphold the reputation and principles of all the participants involved, this is especially imperative in the case of a qualitative study. In analyzing the transcribed data the method chosen will be that of thematic coding through NVIVO software. In using thematic analysis, the coding system will progressively merge parallel codes to create themes advancing the final stages of analysis.



## Results

This study comprised of six individuals in total, these individuals were chosen from their position in the education role of children with ASD. This research comprised of one on one interview with the participants. The questions were originated around a total of ten questions, however in certain interviews a question was added and/alterd to accommodate and encourage a related reply due to their educational environment. The questions are prearranged to obtain information and formulated four major areas; school environment and the service users, difficulties within the environment, opinions and approach on integration and lastly aspirations for enhancing integration. The collective experience of the six participants interviewed gathered an extensive data into the progress of a child with ASD into a mainstream school.

## Discussion

The research question posed in this study 'Is structured integration a prerequisite for a successful inclusion for children with Autism?' has not previously been answered specifically, this chapter will discuss and analyses in detail the findings of this research project. The placement of graphics on a poster can help make it interesting to the reader. Try to include images that are relevant to your area or theme. You can also copy graphs from SPSS and paste them into your results section. The six participants were interviewed to obtain their thoughts and experiences on integrating a child with ASD into a mainstream school. The six participants all conveyed and in every respect agreed on the importance of a structured integration tailored to the specific needs of the child as being a prerequisite to a successful integration, though there are many areas that need to be united and in unison together in order to provide this transition to a greater degree.

**References** Jordan, R. (2008) 'Autistic Spectrum disorders: a challenge and a model for inclusion in education'. *The Gulliford Lecture*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.