Quality of life and social participation of children with autism spectrum disorder: An experience sampling study

Research question:
What is the relationship between everyday social participation and health-related quality of life in children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD)?

This project is appropriate for students in the following discipline(s):
Bachelor of Applied Science (Occupational Therapy) Honours

Aims and background:
Meaningful social experiences promote mental health. We learned from previous work with adults with ASD that, they enjoy interacting with others; social interactions provoke anxiety and take their toll. Little is known about how similar the experiences of children with ASD are to those of adults. In addition, whether the everyday social participation influences health-related quality of life requires investigation. This project will advance knowledge regarding factors influencing quality of life and develop intervention addressing their needs and challenges in social participation.

Proposed method of data collection:
The study is a part of a larger project which investigates everyday social participation and mental health of children with autism spectrum disorder compared with typically developing peers. The student who involves in this study will recruit 10 children with a formal diagnosis of ASD and 10 without disabilities. All the children will be aged between 10 and 12 years. Experience sampling method, an ecological momentary assessment, will be used to collect the data regarding time use in everyday life. The data will be incorporated in to the larger project and then analysed to answer the research questions.

Type of study:
Quantitative

Additional information:
The larger project which investigates everyday social participation and mental health of children with autism spectrum disorder compared with typically developing peers has started in 2016.
Qualitative exploration of the critical elements of recovery for people living with and recovering from mental illness.

**Do you have a broad research topic for students to consider?**
Qualitative exploration of the critical elements of recovery for people living with and recovering from mental illness. Specific project focus will be negotiated with successful student. Will involve semi-structured interviews with people living with mental illness in the community. Thematic analysis of interview data.

**This project is appropriate for students in the following discipline(s):**
Bachelor of Applied Science (Occupational Therapy) Honours

**Type of study:**
Qualitative

Prescribing assistive technologies by occupational therapists.

**Do you have a broad research topic for students to consider?**
Prescribing assistive technologies by occupational therapists.

**This project is appropriate for students in the following discipline(s):**
Bachelor of Applied Science (Occupational Therapy) Honours

**Type of study:**
Mixed methods