

Language in children with autism, and the question of matching

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In this talk, I will present results from my recently finished PhD project on language in preschool children with autism. The participants in the study were 52 children aged 4-6 years, 30 children with autism and 22 with typical development. The children's language skills were assessed by applying a range of language tests, collecting speech samples from free-play sessions, and by administering parent questionnaires. The results from the project illustrate the heterogeneity of language characteristics in the autism population, but also point to some similarities within the population. I will give an overview of the findings, and reflect on their relevance for research, in particular on the question of using language as a matching parameter.