

Abstract

Attentional ability of children with autism has been confused by many researches in the past decades, they can focus excessively in certain stimuli for sometimes while are highly distractible in another times. Studies comparing attentional differences between visual and auditory stimuli are also inconsistent. The present study examined the attention performance through two modalities (i.e. visual and auditory) in 18 children with autism and 18 normal children matched on age and IQ, with the use of the Visual Attention test of NEPSY and Digit Span test. The study hypothesized that children with autism have a better performance in visual than auditory attention task, and will have similar performance as normal children. Results supported the hypothesis and demonstrated that, without outliers, children with autism perform similarly as normal children in visual attention task, but their performance was much worse in auditory attention task, especially the Digits Forward test.