

## **Abstract**

The present study studied the episodic memory of children with high-functioning autism (HFA) in Hong Kong, as well as the influence of semantic organization on their memory performance, using a locally developed list learning test - HKLLT. Eighteen HFA and 21 age-, gender- and handedness-matched typically developed children (TD) were recruited for comparison. HFA group did significantly poorer across encoding, retention, and retrieval stages, and also drew less benefit from semantic organization than the TD group did. Compared with previous studies, the HFA group in this study presented a more extensive and severe impairment of memory which may accounted by the methodological discrepancies. Findings of this study may offer insights into developing effective educational strategies for teaching HFA children.

**Keywords:** High-functioning autism, Verbal learning, Episodic memory, Semantic Organization