

Title: Communication Skills in Four to Six Year Old Children with Autism	
Institution	La Trobe University, School of Psychological Science
Researchers	Heather Nuske (Student) Edith L Bavin (Supervisor)
Contact Details	9479 3412 hjnuske@students.latrobe.edu.au
Outline of Research	The research is an Honours project. The aim is to study communication skills of children with high functioning autism. One of the tasks investigates referential communication (listening skills); the children will select a picture that matches a description given by the researcher. Another task tests comprehension of a short paragraph-length narrative using factual and inferencing questions. A third task, semantic categorizing, investigates the children knowledge of some categories (eg. vehicles, animals). We will also use some cognitive tasks. Due to the focus on language, the children who participate will have English as their primary language. The research findings will add to our understanding of the communication problems of children with autism, and will be valuable in the development of intervention programs.
Findings to date	N/A
Expected start and finish dates	July 2008 -December 2008