

Title: Actual friendships, desired friendships and emotional problems in children with Autism Spectrum Disorders	
Institution	RMIT University, Division of Psychology
Researchers	Katelyn Moore and Dr Amanda Richdale
Contact Details	0421 854 100 s3041651@student.rmit.edu.au
Outline of Research	Although we know that friendships play an important role in typical children's development, we know very little about the role that friendships play in the lives of children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder. Clinical reports suggest that children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder experience significant difficulties forming friendships. It is also known that emotional problems such as anxiety and depression are common in these children. The aim of this study is to examine the relationship between friendships and emotional problems in children and adolescents with an Autism Spectrum Disorder. Parents will be asked to complete questionnaires about their child's current friendships, their child's level of interest in friendships, and their child's emotional functioning.
Findings to date	
Expected start and finish dates	January 2006 to December 2007