

Title: Narrative capabilities in children with an autistic spectrum disorder	
Institution	The University of Melbourne
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Outline of Research	<p>The aim of this project is to obtain a profile of the various modes through which high-functioning children with ASD interact with stories. We are interested in the extent to which the children participate in the activity of story-telling in the context of drama, reading and creative writing, as well as gaining a more precise understanding of their computer literacy. This is part of a larger ARC funded project (Discovery Grant DP0662936) investigating autism and written narrative, and the results from this project will help us to design the methodology for the larger study. Much of the previous research on narrative capability in children with ASD has focused on oral narratives elicited in an experimental setting: there is little information available regarding the extent to which these children understand and use the concept of narrative outside of an experimental setting. Furthermore, as impairment in social communication is a diagnostic criterion for the disorder, elicitation of oral narratives in an unfamiliar setting may not provide the optimum environment for assessing the narrative capabilities of this population group. The project involves a phone survey of parents from the Autism Victoria Research Participant Register, who have children with ASD aged 6-12 with good verbal skills. The results will be collated to produce a profile of the ways in which higher-functioning children with ASD participate in storytelling activities. Parents will also be asked if they and their children have preexisting stories they are willing to contribute to the larger study, and if they are interested in being contacted at a later date to participate in the main study.</p>
Findings to date	No findings as yet available.
Expected start and finish dates	20/8/06 – 31/12/06