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Playful performance of children with pervasive developmental disorder.

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Introduction: Children with pervasive developmental disorders exhibit idiosyncratic interest in a small range of activities, don't respond adequately to the social environment and resistant to change, which can cause changes in performance playful.

Objective: Describe the playful behavior of four children with pervasive development disorder, aged 4 to 6 years old.

Methods: The Assessment of Ludic Behaviour, cross adapted for Brazilian population, was applied to four children (C1, C2, C3 and C4). Each child's play was shot for 30 minutes.

Results: C1 showed great interest and ability to remain seated, use and combine some objects on a conventional/unconventional solution, express feelings; but found difficulties in the operation of objects. Showed no interest to move around, visually explore a new place, linking objects in the sensory properties and imagine situations.

C2 showed great interest and ability to move around, and combine objects, but no interest to visually explore a new place, use scissors and spoon, pile, discovering the properties of objects, link them to the sensory properties, use them in unconventional ways, imitate gestures, imagine situation and find solutions.

C3 showed great interest and ability to remain seated and move, threaded/unthreaded, pile, empty/fill, discover properties and operation of objects, combine and use them on a conventional way, find solutions and express feelings. Has not shown interest to visually explore a new place, using spoon, drop/pick up objects, linking them in the sensory properties, use them of a non-conventional, imitate gestures and imagine situation.

C4 showed great interest and ability to remain seated, threaded/unthreaded, discovering properties and operation of objects, combine and use them in a conventional way and find solutions, but had difficulties in using scissors. Has not shown interest to visually explore a new place, grab a ball, throw/catch, pile, link objects in the sensory properties and imagine situation.

Conclusion: Despite the particularities all children have no interest in visually exploring a new place and imagine situations that affect an extension of recreational environment and pretend play.

Contributions to the practice: This study indicates the importance of monitoring of children with pervasive developmental disorders in their playful performance.