

## ABSTRACT

The present study is to explore the possibility of the use of drawing as a diagnostic screening tool for the autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) and attention deficit/hyperactive disorder (ADHD). Another interesting issue addressed in the current study is whether there are any common characteristics in the drawings of children with these two disorders. Three groups of participants—the ASD, ADHD and mainstream boys are involved, with twelve participants in each group, aged six to eleven years old. Koppitz's (1968) Draw a Person test is conducted with the participants individually. Results show that omission, especially the omission of mouth, negative emotion expressed in the drawn figure, and no-self drawing are specific features found in drawings of the ADHD group; while the ASD group mostly choose to draw self instead of friends and family members. Common emotional indicators in drawings of both groups were identified, i.e. 'poor integration' and transparency.