

### Abstract

The ways children express emotions in human figure drawings in different interpersonal relationships were explored. Drawings of four human figures (the liked, the hated, the feared and the self), on the same paper, produced by 12 autistic boys were compared with those made by matched control group. Results indicated that the mainstream group tended to use a greater variety of colors than the autistic group. Analysis of the size, distance and sequence revealed a lower sensitivity of the autistic group in differentiating emotions elicited by different figures. The autistic group also showed preference for drawing along the edge of paper.