

### Abstract

Lie-telling is suggested to be part of a normative developmental process for children. However, little is known about the lie-telling behavior in low-functioning children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). The present study explored the developmental trajectory of lie-telling, and the relations among lie-telling, Theory of Mind, and executive functions in children with ASD (6 – 11 years; n=49), with comparison groups of low-functioning children (ID; n=44) and typically developing children (TD; n=53). In the temptation resistance paradigm, children with ASD were found to be less likely to lie for their transgressions when compared to TD children. This tendency to tell antisocial lies remains stable over the age of 6 to 11. In contrast, children with ASD told more prosocial lies than TD children in the undesirable gift paradigm. It was also found that children with lower first-order false belief are more likely to tell prosocial lies. However, no significant correlations were found between executive functions and lie-telling. These findings have implications for understanding the unique features of lie-telling behavior among children with ASD.

**Keywords:** lie-telling; autism spectrum disorders; theory of mind, executive functions