

How does PDA present in a Play Based Assessment?

McIntosh, S., Tyerman, E. & Watson, G. (2011) The Elizabeth Newson Centre



NORSACA
quality of life for people with autism

Continues to resist and avoid ordinary demands of life

Fiona indiscriminately avoided Gemma's demands: Gemma was encouraging Fiona to complete an activity; Fiona brought her a 'present' to try to distract her:

Fiona: 'Choose a rainbow ball'
Gemma: 'Fiona we just need to finish this off for two minutes...'
Fiona: 'Choose a rainbow sparkle ball'
Gemma: 'When we finish this, we can play with your game'
Fiona: 'They are exactly the same' [referring to the two balls she was holding]

Gemma insisted on Simon finishing an activity at the table; he stood up and found a game about bees, saying, 'buzzz...I've been stung by one!'

'I want to get up my castle'

'I think I don't have time'

'I think we finished it'

'I'll do that tomorrow'

'I'm sorry but I still can't help you'

Surface Sociability but apparent lack of sense of social identity

Sarah did not appear to see herself as a child or respect adults around her:

She described her school to Gemma:....

Sarah: 'Melanie used to be my TA'

Gemma: 'Did she?'

Sarah: 'Yes, she was Mrs Carr'

Gemma: 'Did you call her Mrs Carr in school?'

Sarah: 'Yes I had to unless we were playing schools...when we were playing schools I was the teacher...so I could call her Melanie...I was Miss Wilson'

When the Consultant entered the room, Sarah blew a raspberry, telling them to 'go away, go away, you're interrupting our game...get out'.



Comfortable in role play and pretending

Pretend play fully absorbed Gabriella:....

Gabriella: 'I can't wait to see Pierre tonight, under the moonlight, for a dinner'

Emma: 'Is he going to cook you dinner tonight?'

Gabriella: 'He's up, my boyfriend from France. He's a transfer student'

Emma: 'Ahh'

Gabriella: 'That's why I've gotta date tonight and gotta run'

Harry took on the role of a devil, a singer, a Scottish artist, a woman, a dad, a jailer, a shopkeeper, a candy man, and a police officer and dressed up accordingly.



Obsessive Behaviour

When Imogen's Interactions became intense and controlling:

Imogen: 'No, they my bubbles, my bubbles'

Gemma: 'Take it in turns?'

Imogen: 'They my bubbles, not yours'

Gemma: 'They are to share'

Imogen: 'First my turn then yours. Stand back, sit down'

[She pushed Gemma into an armchair]

Imogen: 'Stay there, stay there'

When dressing up Gemma, Maddie chose the clothes and insisted on dressing her. When Gemma offered to put the clothes on herself, Maddie refused and said that she was putting the clothes on, directing her to bend down so that she could reach. When sitting at the table colouring in a picture, Maddie moved closer and closer, before eventually sitting directly on Gemma's knee and then continued to colour the picture in.

Reference

Newson, E. (2002) Defining Criteria for Diagnosis of Pathological Demand Avoidance Syndrome, The Elizabeth Newson Centre