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## **Development of Expressive Skills in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder through Aided Augmented Input and Technological Resource**

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### **Abstract**

The study aimed to assess the benefits of a combined intervention involving aided language stimulation and information and communication technologies (ICT) in children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). This neurodevelopmental disorder can significantly impact children's communication skills, which in turn can hinder their academic performance. In this regard, strategies based on augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) models have been developed, among which aided augmented input stands out as a method that enhances expressive components and comprehension using visual stimuli combined with linguistic input from the interlocutor. Ten children with minimal verbal skills and ASD were selected to participate in the study. They underwent the intervention using the EC+ ICT application, and their expressive skills were assessed before (Moment 1) and after 10 weeks of intervention (Moment 2). The SPSS® Statistics version 27.0 software was used for data analysis, with a significance level set at  $p < .001$ . The results indicated significant improvements in skills related to communication functions, variety of conversational partners, topics, and conversational preferences, supporting the effectiveness of the intervention. These findings suggest that the strategy may be beneficial in enhancing expressive skills in children with ASD who face challenges in these areas. Additionally, the personalized approach of EC+, tailored to individual needs, may be crucial in facilitating the development of communication skills in this group of children within the educational context.

**Keywords:** autism, communication, education, intervention, technology