

## **P06- THE EFFECTS OF USING ART THERAPY FOR EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENTS WITH AUTISM**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The aim of this research was to investigate the effects of using art therapy for emotional development of students with autism at the Demonstration School of Khon Kaen University, Special Education Division (Autistic Research Center). Participants were 5 students with autism, who were studying at the Demonstration School of Khon Kaen University, Special Education Division (Autistic Research Center). Sample selection was done through purposive sampling of children who were given a diagnosis of autism by doctors. The art therapy lessons were applied in the first semester of 2014 academic year. The instrument used were 20 lesson plans for art therapy and a behavior observation form, which is a 5 point rating-scale developed by the researchers to collect data to find an average score and a descriptive narrative result. By participating in art therapy, the 5 students with autism showed the following average scores for behaviors; 1) 2.8 for students' interest, 2) 3.2 for students' concentration and pleasure, 3) 2.00 for students' creative abilities, 4) 2.20 for students' intention of doing the activities, 5) 3.60 for student's not making loud noises, 6) 3.20 for students' patience, 7) 3.00 for students' emotional and behavioral control, 8) 3.00 for students' attempt to complete their tasks, 9) 3.00 for students' adaptation to the tasks, and 10) 2.60 for students' good emotions and happiness.

**Keywords :** art therapy, emotions, students with autism