Exploratory factor analysis of the Adapted Skillstreaming Checklist for children with autism spectrum disorder

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Assessing the skills and symptoms of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a significant challenge due to the variability in how they present. The Adapted Skillstreaming Checklist (ASC) is a 38-item questionnaire specifically designed to assess the skills and symptoms of children with ASD who do not have intellectual disability. In contrast to most questionnaires, which assess the absence of social-communication skills/behaviors and the presence of unusual interests/behaviors, the ASC assesses these two areas from an adaptive perspective (i.e., with a focus on prosocial skills, and how well children can flexibly regulate their behaviour). Prior studies on the ASC, when completed by parents, have reported that it is a promising way to assess children with ASD. This study further tested parent ratings on the ASC, for 331 children with ASD without intellectual disability. This was to determine whether particular groups of items within the questionnaire were associated, to a degree that would allow for the calculation of subscale scores (i.e., factors). Results indicated the presence of three subscales (factors) that were named *Social Communication Skills*, *Behavior Regulation Skills*, and *Interest Regulation during Discussions* based on the content of the items within each. These three subscales could then be used to calculate an overall score. Further studies of the ASC are warranted as the field needs accurate questionnaires that can be completed quickly and efficiently, and that are cost effective.