

Evaluation of a digital coordination tool for professionals and families of children in pre-school autism units

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The goal of this project is to evaluate a digital coordination tool made for professionals but also families of children in pre-school autism units.

The project is constructed after the following assessments:

- Profiles and developmental trajectories in autistic children vary widely;
- The increasing number of people working with these children is a reality that we must come to terms with;
- The use of digital tools in health is a more and more recognized solution to rationalize and better the support of people;
- The quality of the multiprofessional coordination is a factor in improving the quality and effectiveness of support.

We wish to know if the implementation of a digital tool aiming at broadcasting coordination practices within teams and families is likely to better said practices.

The primary goal of the study is to identify practices and needs in terms of coordination of the various professionals and familial players, and to imagine with them how a digital tool could be used to integrate these practices, create new ones and thus meet these needs.

The secondary goals of the study are to measure the effects of using this tool, on practices themselves (of interprofessional coordination and of work with families) and on players, more specifically on the sense of personal efficacy on the professional side, and the level of parental involvement on the familial side.

To reach these goals, the methodology is organized in 3 times:

1. A field survey to identify practices already in place in the UEMA (pre-school autism units), to collect the judgment of players on these practices, and what their expectations and needs are towards a coordination digital tool;
2. A development of the tool phase. It entails adjusting the construction of the tool depending on feedback made by users from first drafts of the tool;
3. Based on this feedback the tool will be constructed within the scope of a partnership with a software publisher from the medico-social sector;
4. The evaluation of the tool through its effects on coordination practices and communication / cooperation and on players.

This project relies on 2 UEMA groups. A first group named “pilot group” made of 3 UEMA (already recruited) within which the field survey is conducted and which will participate in the evaluation phase, and another group of 3 UEMA named “control group” which will only participate in the evaluation phase. This organization’s aim is to observe potential differences in the results of the evaluation depending on the fact the participants participated or not in the construction of it.