




Effectiveness of Virtual Reality on Theory of Mind in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder


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R e v i e w e r s

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

In paragraph 2, the shift from emotional regulation to ToM reads abrupt: “Emotional dysregulation is highly prevalent in this population...”. Add a connecting statement explaining how emotional regulation deficits interfere with belief-reasoning processes.

Paragraph 3 claims “similar attentional patterns are often observed in ASD”. This is a broad assertion; specify what type of attentional patterns (e.g., threat bias, disengagement difficulties) and cite ASD-specific evidence.

The Discussion includes statements such as “VR-based training can significantly improve theory of mind”, which imply causation. Since the study used a quasi-experimental design, adjust language to avoid causal inference.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The Introduction provides extensive support for VR interventions but lacks description of established ToM interventions (e.g., social skills training, cognitive-behavioral approaches, perspective-taking curricula). Adding this comparison would contextualize VR within existing treatment paradigms.

Some parts of the Introduction, especially the section discussing multiple VR studies across clinical populations, can overwhelm the reader. Consider grouping studies by theme (emotion, inhibitory control, social adaptation) to improve readability.

The Intervention paragraph mentions that “the researcher monitored performance online and provided guidance”, but does not describe how intervention fidelity was ensured. Specify whether checklists, dual raters, or session logs were used.

Although the results indicate significant changes across time, the manuscript does not include post-hoc comparisons (e.g., pretest vs. posttest vs. follow-up). Adding post-hoc tests would substantiate claims regarding progression.

Although assumption tests are reported (Levene’s, Box’s M, Mauchly’s), there is no narrative on residual patterns, normality, or variance trends. A short interpretation of these assumptions would improve transparency.

Many paragraphs summarize findings from other authors in detail, sometimes overshadowing the discussion of the present study’s results. Condense external summaries and expand on how your results specifically align or contrast with them.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.