

**‘Specialization in ICTs and Special Education: Psychopedagogy
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EARLY DETECTION OF AUTISM SPECTRUM BY FAMILY

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ABSTRACT

This diploma thesis was focused on the question of the investigation of the issue of early detection of autism, paying closer attention to parents and whether they can detect under the age of three years old, any behaviors and characteristics that are included in autism spectrum disorder. Based on current literature data, the early signs of autism can already be detected in the first months of the life of a child. Parents, through the daily interaction that they have with the child, can identify a number of key characteristics, which helps so that the child is referred for diagnostic testing as early as possible. However, the fact is also taken into account, that the demographic profile of parents and the severity of autism are factors that facilitate the detection of early indicators that are linked to autism disorder by the family of the child. Another finding that emerges from literature refers to the fact that an early diagnosis of autism is of critical importance, since it ensures an early intervention, and by extent, overcoming as early as possible any hurdles and the deficits that are presented by children with autism. This parameter has a positive impact on the quality of life of those children, strengthening their social skills, at the same time. The survey that was implemented, followed the quantitative research method and utilized it as a research tool, with the assistance of which, it was attempted to detect the autism behaviors that were observed by parents in their children under the age of three years old. From the results of the survey, it was first found out that, in the majority of the cases, parents noticed early signs of autism, as they were reflected in the child's behavior. Secondly, it was discovered that it was easier for parents to detect these signs in cases where their child had not developed speech. The observation and detection of the early signs of autism contributed to the early detection of the disorder, showing, at the same time, the important role that can be played by parents in the early detection of autism.

Key-words: autism spectrum, early detection, family

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