

**‘Specialization in ICTs and Special Education: Psychopedagogy of Integration’
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DEMOCRITUS UNIVERSITY OF THRACE Department of Greek Philology
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**DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL SKILLS IN AUTISM
THROUGH DRAMA – ICTs AND ROLE PLAYING GAMES**

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ABSTRACT

In recent years, the number of people on the autism spectrum has increased. The implementation of treatment programs that enable them not only to reduce the onset of their symptoms but also to be able to develop, integrate into the society and be treated equally by its members, is more imperative than ever. The emotional and social difficulties faced by these people are undeniably an obstacle to their emotional and social development, often leading to even social isolation. Against this isolation stands the theater, in which autism deficits and disabilities are important elements that it seeks to cultivate and serve. An important tool is Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) , however, which come to integrate the experiential technique of role playing of the theater, in games that simulate real life in safe, predictable and attractive environments for these people. Virtual reality applications, computer-based applications and mobile devices as well as robots, create scenarios in which the person with autism will become a protagonist and will develop emotional and social skills.

Key-Words: theater, drama, autism, ICTs, role-playing, social development, emotional development, social skills, emotional skills.

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