
ABSTRACT

Combined individual psychotherapy and group activities for an adolescent male diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder

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Treatment of an early adolescent male client diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder through combined individual psychotherapy and group activities is reported. He pressed the therapists for answers about hard decisions. Responses by the therapists were relativized and client's safety was ensured. The result of this was hardships of living in a world in which it is difficult to achieve a balance between the self and others was shared. Hardships over decisions about masculinity and his disorder were concretized. As a result of modeling after the therapists, the client gained a sense of physical masculinity, which led to the development of independence. The dimension of sounds and senses in the dyadic world, and the dimension of meanings and words in the triadic world were mediated by the therapist through shuttling between individual psychotherapy and group activities. Group activities were useful for the development of independence, which led to the development of sociability. The client began to live with a personality that is different from "normal" people.

Key Words: autism spectrum disorder, combined psychotherapy, masculinity, independence, sociability
