

Relational competence and down syndrome

Dina Di Giacomo¹, Lucia Serenella De Federicis², Domenico Passafiume³

The difficulties of different aspects and steps in the relational competence in the Down's syndrome children is related to the subject's cognitive level. Attention (both focal and selective), comprehension, communicative competence (both in production and in reception), imitation behavior and cognitive abilities were directly involved in the relational competence. Low perceptual discrimination and brief attention span influence the comprehension of different aspects that may play a role in the dynamic of the social relationship.

Down's syndrome children usually have difficulties in the recognition and attribution of specific emotional components to different behavioural modalities. This complex frame of cognitive deficits causes Down's syndrome children to have difficulty performing adequately with regard to the relational context in different situations. The present paper synthetically reviews the results of the studies present in the scientific literature about social and relational competence in Down's syndrome.

¹IRCCS Ospedale S. Lucia di Roma e Università degli Studi di L'Aquila, Dipartimento di Storia e Metodologie Comparete – Via Roma, 33 – 67100 L'Aquila

E-mail: phdina@tin.it

²*Università degli Studi di L'Aquila*

³*IRCCS Ospedale S. Lucia di Roma e Università degli Studi di L'Aquila*