# Imitation according to the severity of the disorder in Tunisian autistic child

**(Zaneti Sarah, 2017)**

ABSTRACT

Imitation is an immediate skill available in humans and even in all mammals from birth. Its various forms provide fundamental functions for development. Nevertheless, the scientific literature predominantly rejects the presence of an intact imitative capacity in autistic children (DeMyer, 1972 ; Smith et Bryson, 1994 ; Rogers, 1996). The aim of this research is to highlight that the ability to imitate is not impossible in autistic children. We measured the spontaneous, induced imitation and recognition of being imitated in two independent groups each one is consisting of 6 Tunisian children aged between 6 and 11 years. The first with light / medium ASD, and the second with severe ASD. The results revealed that all children regardless of the severity of their disorder are at least capable of imitating a form of imitation (spontaneous, induced imitation and recognition of being imitated).It appears that the frequency and quality of imitation depend on the severity of the disorder, hence the need to specify the form of imitation and degree of autistic impairment before extrapolating and reducing the capacities of the autistic child.

Key-words: ASD, Imitation, Recognition of being imitated, Tunisian autistic child.