

Title:Feasibility and cross-cultural validation of an adapted social skills group training programme (KONTAKT™ CHILD) for Chinese autistic children: a wait-list RCT protocol

1

2

# Online Supplemental File 1: Structure and Content of the Chinese version of KONTAKT™

3

4

Supplementary Table 1. Comparison between the KONTAKT™ CHILD and Mandarin PEERS® for autistic children and adolescents.

Category		KONTAKT™ CHILD	Mandarin PEERS®[1]
Participant characteristics	Age range (in years)	8-12	12-17
	Intelligence quotient (IQ)	Full-scale IQ over 70	Full-scale as well as verbal IQ over 70
	Adequate Chinese comprehension	Required	Required
	Self-reported intrinsic motivation to participate	Required	Required
	No significant rule-breaking or self-harm behaviours	Required	Required
General group and session characteristics	Number of participant sessions	16	14
	Number of parent sessions	3	14
	Group size	4-8	6-10
	Per session length	1 hour	1.5 hour
	Number of therapists per training group	2-3 group leaders	3 group leaders for the adolescent session and 1 for the parent session
Session structures and parent involvement	Participant session structure	Structured, with various sections including group activities and snack times	Structured, with the main focus being the didactic section
	Participant-led sessions, individualised topics, and individually tailored assignments	Yes	No
	Excursion session for skill generalisation	Yes	No
	Parent session structure	Focus on the overall progress of participants and group; parental support	Focus on homework review and parental coaching techniques
	Parent involvement	Less emphasised, parents are encouraged to support their children throughout the programme	More emphasised, and successful parent coaching is considered as elemental in promoting positive training outcomes
	Teaching methods	Scaffold type teaching	Didactic teaching
Overall goals and guiding principle	Overall goals	Individualised social goals developed with participants, self understanding plus emotional recognition and	Social skills necessary for developing and maintaining friendships and managing peer conflict and peer

Title:Feasibility and cross-cultural validation of an adapted social skills group training programme (KONTAKT™ CHILD) for Chinese autistic children: a wait-list RCT protocol

		expression goals	rejection
	Guiding principle	Cognitive behavior therapy (CBT), with special focus on functional analysis	CBT, especially focus on psychoeducation, role-play demonstration, and behavioural rehearsal

Title:Feasibility and cross-cultural validation of an adapted social skills group training programme (KONTAKT™ CHILD) for Chinese autistic children: a wait-list RCT protocol

6    **Supplementary Table 2. Content for the Chinese 16-session version of KONTAKT™.**

Session	Participants	Group activities	Discussion topics	Homework
1	Children and parents	I am good at...	<p>Presentation of KONTAKT™, review of confidentiality.</p> <p><i>Advanced Option.</i></p> <p>How to introduce yourself.</p> <p>Parent meeting: Presentation of KONTAKT™, Understanding autism, developing child’s strengths, and <u>talking about autism diagnosis with your child</u></p>	Formulation of individual goals.
2	Children	<p>Spin the bottle</p> <p><i>Optional.</i></p> <p><u>Story Cube</u><sup>a</sup></p>	<p>Group rules</p> <p><i>Advanced Option.</i></p> <p>How do I ‘describe’ myself in the group?    How do I ‘describe’ the others in the group?</p>	<p>My supporters during KONTAKT™</p> <p>Practising one of the child’s midway goals</p>
3	Children	<p>What has changed?</p> <p><i>Optional.</i></p>	<p><u>What kind of child am I?</u><sup>a</sup></p> <p><i>Advanced Option.</i></p> <p><u>Sharing my social</u></p>	A difficult situation at school, for example, when the child became angry at a classmate.

Title:Feasibility and cross-cultural validation of an adapted social skills group training programme (KONTAKT™ CHILD) for Chinese autistic children: a wait-list RCT protocol

Session	Participants	Group activities	Discussion topics	Homework
		The Wink game	<u>difficulties with others.</u> <sup>a</sup>	
4	Children	EU-Emotion  <i>Optional.</i>  <u>Role-play, for example, conflict.</u> <sup>b</sup>	How do gestures and facial expressions work?  <i>Advanced Option.</i>  When do you use non-verbal communication?	Misunderstandings.  Children
5	Children	<u>Role-play focusing on complex emotions.</u> <sup>b</sup>  <i>Optional.</i>  What has changed?	Resolving misunderstandings.  <i>Advanced Option.</i>  Understand jokes, irony, and sarcasm, and tell white lies.	Starting a conversation
6	Children	Treasure Hunt  <b>Optional.</b>  <u>Role-play</u> <sup>b</sup>	How to manage a new social situation?  <i>Advanced Option.</i>  How can you support someone else in a new social situation?	Feeling lonely or not part of a group.

Title:Feasibility and cross-cultural validation of an adapted social skills group training programme (KONTAKT™ CHILD) for Chinese autistic children: a wait-list RCT protocol

Session	Participants	Group activities	Discussion topics	Homework
7	Children	Talking to a stranger  <b>Optional.</b>  EU Emotion	Feeling lonely and being teased and/or bullied.  <i>Advanced Option.</i>  Managing difficult situations on social media.	Handling meeting cancellations or rejections.  Reviewing main and midway goals.
8	Children and parents	<u>Charades</u> <sup>b</sup>  <b>Optional.</b>  The Wink game	Choose a task to do during an excursion.  <i>Advanced Option.</i>  Talking to someone you like or want to be friends with.  Parent meeting:  Update on what has been covered on KONTAKT™ so far.	Prepare for the group excursion.  Individualised home assignments based on chosen tasks to be undertaken while on the group excursion.
9	Children	Group excursion, e.g., to a cafe, <u>bubble tea shop</u> , <u>or convenience store</u> . <sup>a</sup>	What to consider when going on an excursion?	Carrying out my task during the excursion.
10	Children	<u>Video clip about non-verbal communication</u> . <sup>b</sup>	Making/Canceling a time to meet up with someone	Talking to someone new or I do not know.

Title:Feasibility and cross-cultural validation of an adapted social skills group training programme (KONTAKT™ CHILD) for Chinese autistic children: a wait-list RCT protocol

Session	Participants	Group activities	Discussion topics	Homework
		<b>Optional.</b>  Spin the bottle	<b>Advanced Option.</b>  How to stay in touch with a friend	
11	Children	Joint group activity  <b>Optional.</b> <u>Advanced treasure hunt</u> <sup>b</sup>	Connecting with a person you do not know well  <b>Advanced Option.</b>  Connecting through social media	Individualised homework assignments based on personal goals.
12-15	Children	Chosen by the selected Children.	Chosen by the selected Children.	Individualised homework assignments based on personal goals.
16	Children and parents	Jointly determined by the group	Reflection on what it was like to lead a KONTAKT™ session. Summarising the programme  Parent meeting:  Update on what has been covered on KONTAKT™ so far.	-

<sup>a</sup>: Topics or scenarios different from the Australian English version of KONTAKT™ [2].

<sup>b</sup>: Activities that have been localised to match the Chinese culture.

Title:Feasibility and cross-cultural validation of an adapted social skills group training programme (KONTAKT™ CHILD) for Chinese autistic children: a wait-list RCT protocol

7  
8  
9  
10

11   **References**

12   1. Lao U, Li Y, Bai W, et al. Adaptation and Feasibility of the Mandarin Version of PEERS((R)) for Autistic  
13       Adolescents. J Autism Dev Disord 2023 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10803-023-06056-w>. Epub  
14       2023/07/22 21:06.

15   2. Girdler S, Afsharnejad B, Black MH, et al. KONTAKT® Manual English version. Australia2021.

16