Allison Giroux, “The effects of peer social interactions on emotion identification by youth with social responsiveness difficulty,” University of Vermont, 2015

Trouble identifying emotions is a trademark trait of Autism Spectrum Disorders. Investigation regarding helpful intervention strategies, such as social engagement, is needed to better understand how to approach such diagnoses. Child social impairment scores were measured from parent-report Social Responsiveness Scale (SRS) questionnaires, and their level of social engagement was measured on the Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL). An eye tracking paradigm involving an emotion identification task was administered to each child participant, and their emotion identification accuracy (EIA) was calculated. Regressions were run with CBCL T scores, SRS T scores, and both CBCL and SRS T scores predicting EIA. A one-way ANOVA was run to evaluate differences on EIA across SRS severity groups. The one-way ANOVA resulted in significant group differences on EIA, $F(2, 112) = 20.81, p < 0.01$. None of the regressions were significant. Based on results from a previous project, regressions were run for each of the three SRS groups for predicting EIA. Although none were significant, the regression for the moderate SRS group was significant at the trend level. Differences in EIA were found across SRS severity groups, and SRS and CBCL together predicted EIA for children in the moderate SRS group at trend-level significance. Although the hypotheses were not supported, further research is needed considering that trend-level significance was achieved despite a recruitment approach that did not specifically target children with ASD diagnoses.

**Problem Statement**
Trouble identifying emotions is a trademark trait of Autism Spectrum Disorders. Investigation regarding helpful intervention strategies, such as social engagement, is needed to better understand how to approach such diagnoses.

**Methods**
Child social impairment scores were measured from parent-report Social Responsiveness Scale (SRS) questionnaires, and their level of social engagement was measured on the Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL). An eye tracking paradigm involving an emotion identification task was administered to each child participant, and their emotion identification accuracy (EIA) was calculated. Regressions were run with CBCL T scores, SRS T scores, and both CBCL and SRS T scores predicting EIA. A one-way ANOVA was run to evaluate differences on EIA across SRS severity groups.

**Results**
The one-way ANOVA resulted in significant group differences on EIA, $F(2, 112) = 20.81, p < 0.01$. None of the regressions were significant. Based on results from a previous project, regressions were run for each of the three SRS groups for predicting EIA. Although none were significant, the regression for the moderate SRS group was significant at the trend level.

**Conclusion**
Differences in EIA were found across SRS severity groups, and SRS and CBCL together predicted EIA for children in the moderate SRS group at trend-level significance. Although the hypotheses were not supported, further research is needed considering that trend-level significance was achieved despite a recruitment approach that did not specifically target children with ASD diagnoses.