

SUPPORTING SYNCHRONY AND ATTUNEMENT IN PARENTS/CARERS AND AUTISTIC CHILDREN

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A research project investigating the effectiveness of Video Interaction Guidance (VIG) to support communication and interaction for **parents/carers and autistic children**. Using **observational video coding** and **automated synchrony analysis** to examine patterns of interaction before and after VIG.

BACKGROUND

Non-autistic parents/caregivers and autistic children may have a **mismatch in communication or interaction styles**.

This could **impact the attachment bond** and the child's ability to manage their **emotions, behaviour, and mental health**.

When parents are better supported to **mentalise**, and **respond** in a warm, curious, and sensitive way, it can help the **child's development**.

VIG may therefore be **especially helpful** for parents/carers when their child has a **different communication style**.

METHOD



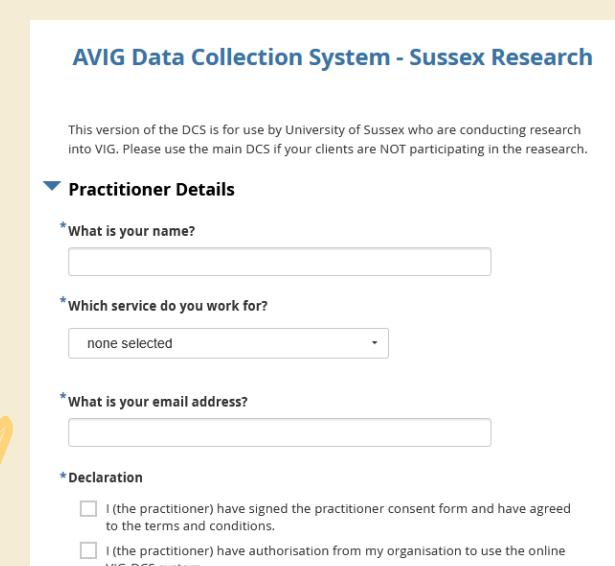
20 parent/carer-child pairs who have, or are due to receive, VIG with a non-NHS practitioner.

Potential participant pairs will be **identified** by **VIG practitioners** and practitioners will introduce the study to participants. The data will be collected in **line with typical VIG procedures**.



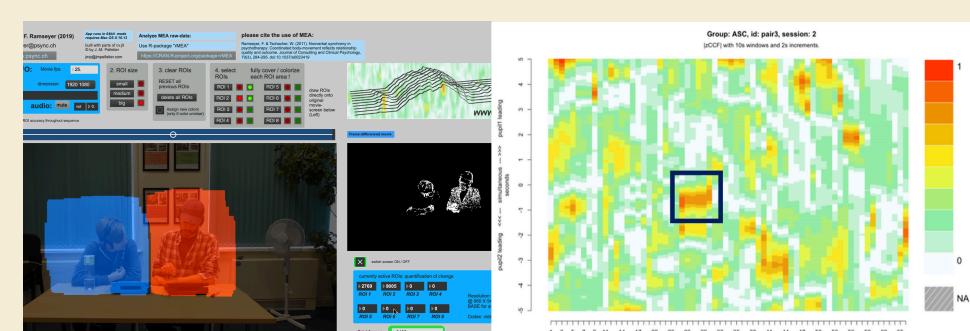
Practitioners will contribute consenting participants' **video-recordings** from their first and last VIG cycles.

Practitioners will use the VIG-DCS before and after VIG in their usual meetings with the client. They will capture participants' **Goal-Based Outcomes**, the **PRFQ-9** and the **MORS-Baby or MORS-Child**.

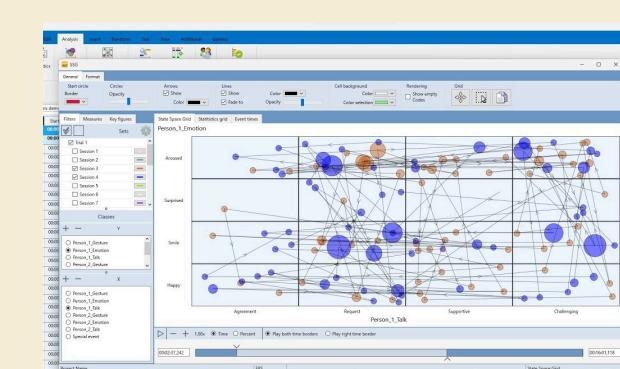


ANALYSIS

Motion Energy Analysis (MEA): a tool to extract two partners' motion from video-recorded data. This allows automated analysis about the association between each partners' body movements.



Observational Video Coding: a coding scheme based on the Principles of Attuned Interaction and Guidance (PAIG) will be developed with two advisory groups of VIG practitioners and autistic people.



We will examine the differences in attunement, synchrony, and parent outcomes **before and after VIG**, and we will use **contingency analysis** to look at the pattern of interaction.



PARTICIPANT INFORMATION VIDEO



GET INVOLVED

We need **VIG practitioners who are working with parents/carers and autistic children** (diagnosed or parent/practitioner identified) to take part!

This will involve introducing the study to clients (with researcher guidance and support) and collecting data during your usual meetings with clients.