

Effects of equine assisted interventions on communication and language development for children on the autism spectrum



Nicole Denni-Krichel, speech therapist, equine assisted therapist, France

Dr Laurence Hameury, child psychiatrist, France

Autism Europe
Congress
sept. 2019

1-Introduction

Autistic spectrum conditions affect interactions and communication, with delay and special features in language development.

The aim of communication and speech therapies is to :

- build communication.
- permit language development.

Practices associating equine mediation increase and benefits are observed.



2- Method

In many researches it appears that horse (or pony)

- stimulate child communication systems.
- operate as a partner to facilitate interactions.

This approach brings

- neuro-psycho-physiological benefits.
- propitious frame for language development and learnings.



3-Results

Equine mediation

- helps children with autism to exchange and progress in communication.
- stimulates functions involved in interactions with others, communication development (joint attention, association, imitation, intention, perception).
- develops systems interfering in social adaptation, regulation and information processing.

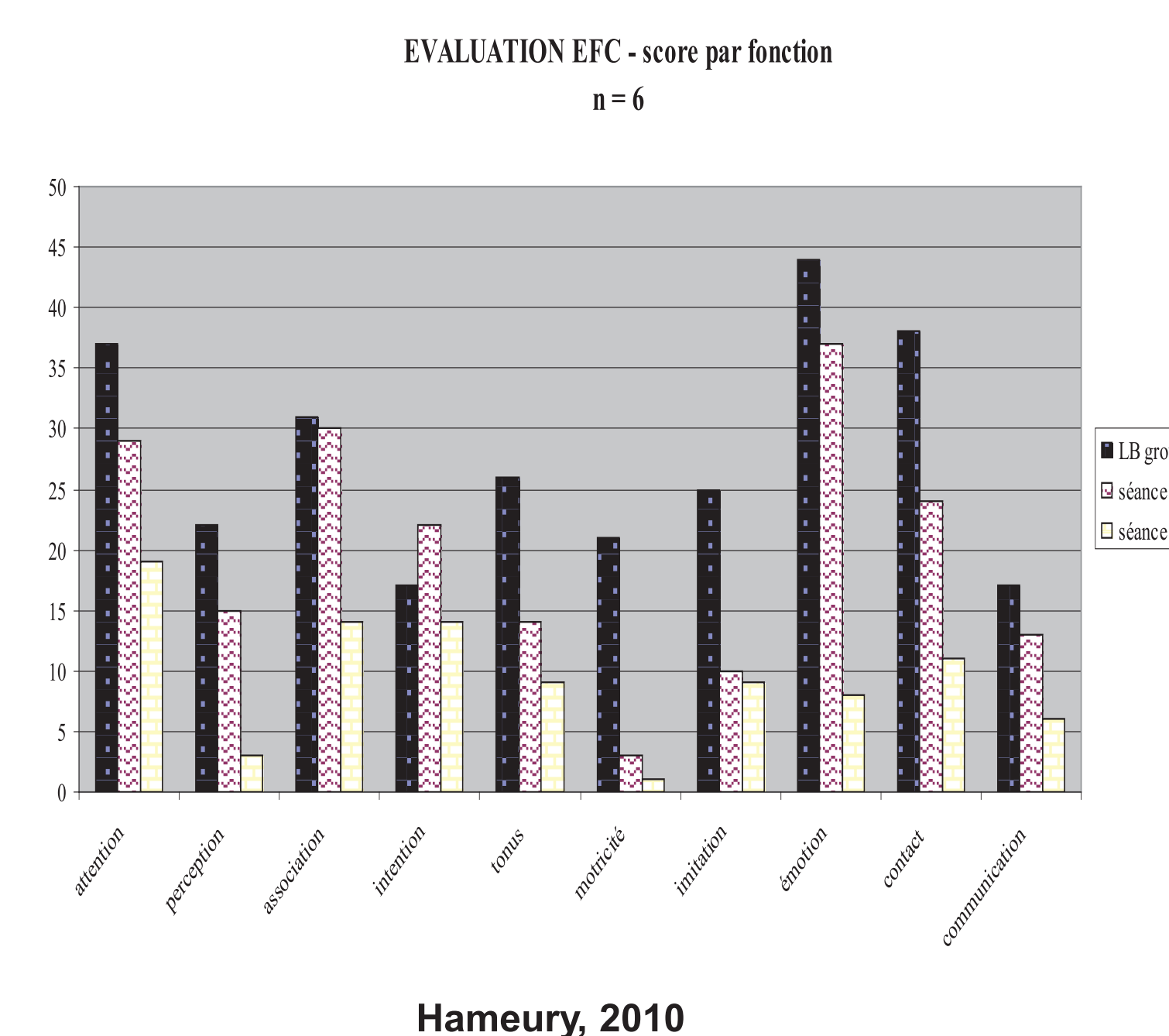
Horse lead child to experiment co-action and reciprocity, promoting interactive behavior and exchanges with language.

Horse movements, through multisensorial stimulation,

- activate sensory-integrative functions.
- encourage vocal productions.

Many international scientific studies about quantitative evaluation of results in equine mediation empower to validate this approach.

They show significant improvement in autistic symptoms, communication and language.



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4-Conclusion

Equine mediation completes and reinforces communication and speech therapy benefits.

Impacts assessment on language will continue to be studied.

Acknowledgments to Pr Lelord

n.denni-krichel@wanadoo.fr

laurence.hameury@wanadoo.fr